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THE

MEDFORD HISTORICAL REGISTER

VOL. I., 1898

PUBLISHED BY THE
MEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEDFORD, MASS.

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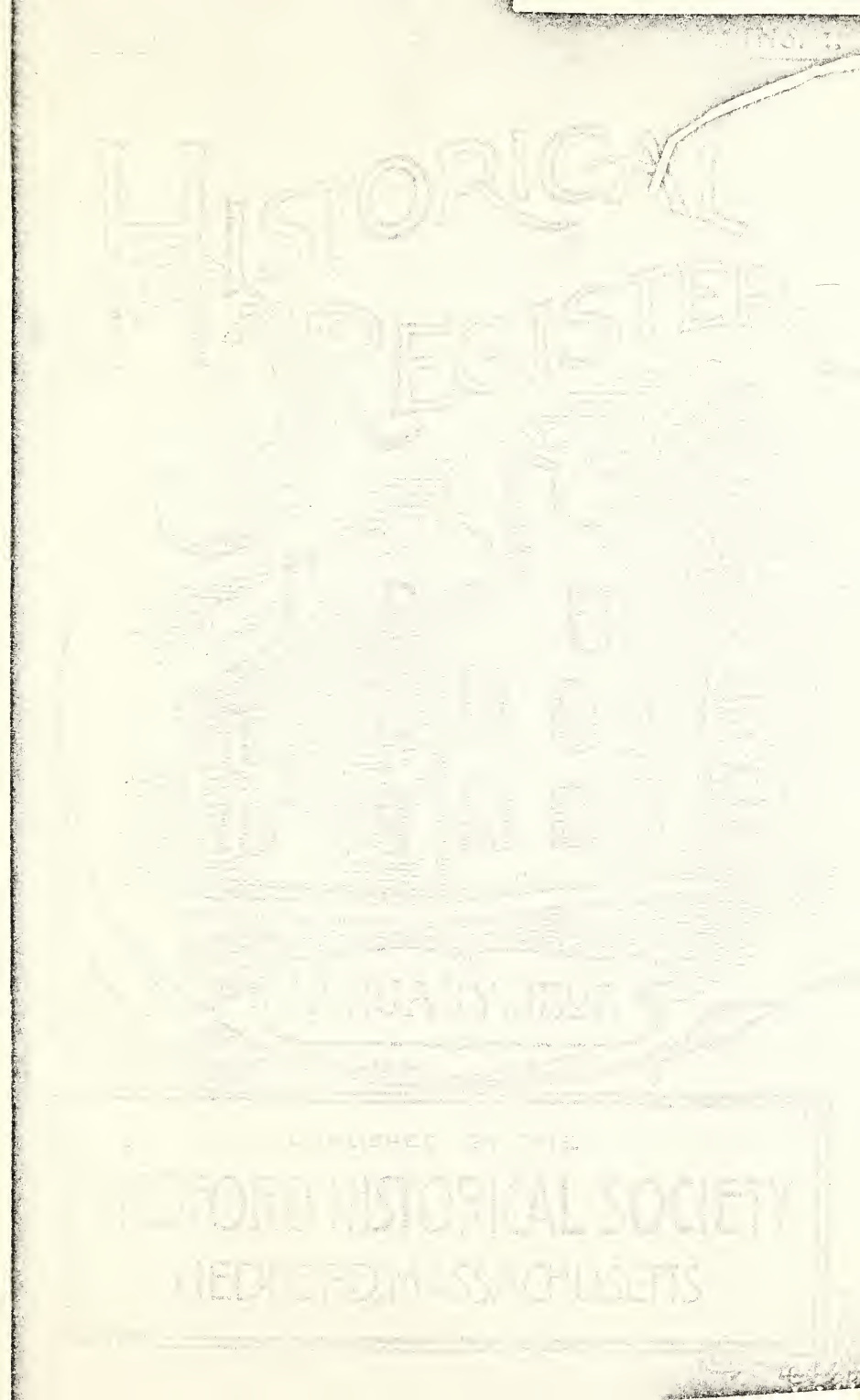

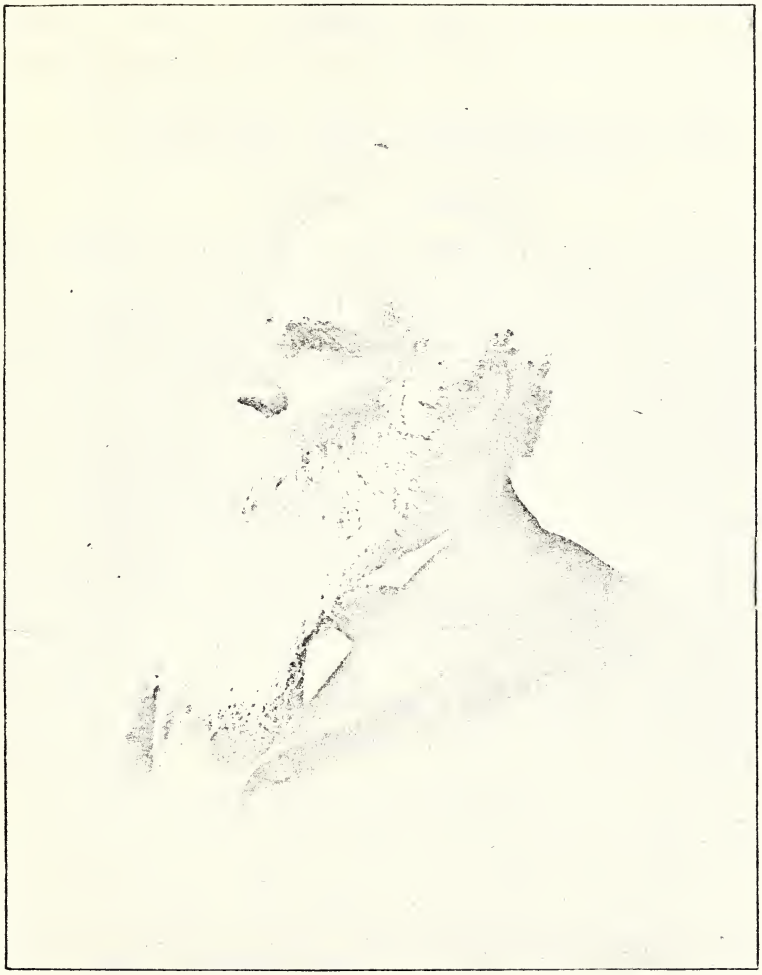

BENJAMIN F. MORRISON.

The Medford Historical Register.

VOL. I. JANUARY, 1898. NO. 1.

THE SCHOOLS AND SCHOOLMASTERS OF COLONIAL DAYS IN MEDFORD.[1]

BY BENJ. F. MORRISON.

OWING to the fact that allusions to the subject of education in its early records are very few and very meagre, comparatively little can now be said with certainty of Medford schools and schoolmasters during the Colonial period. We do know, however, that amid privation and poverty and constant warfare, not only with a harsh climate, but with "savage beasts and still more savage men," they were laying the foundations of that which we, their descendants, are now richly enjoying. Their children are left to estimate the greatness of their labors by the grandeur of the results which have flowed from them. No commonwealth like Massachusetts can spring up and grow to its present proud position without an adequate cause; and among those who did their share of the work and bore their share of the burdens we may be sure were the early settlers of Medford.

A prominent and discriminating writer has said that "everything which has power to win the respect and command the obedience of men must have its roots deep in the past. As with our political institutions so with our schools and educational system generally; they were a copy, more or less exact, of what the people had left behind in Old England."

The statement is frequently made that by the law of 1647 Massachusetts established the first system of free

[1] Read before the Medford Historical Society.

public schools in the world. But this is hardly true. They were public schools, and many of them were free; but the law made their support permissive rather than compulsory, and direct taxation for their support was by no means universal. In very many cases the town rate, that is, the general tax, was only to supplement other sources of income; and it took many years to make apparent that "tuition fees from the rich and free tuition for the poor made class distinctions too pronounced in a new society where in church and state all were equal."

We must not forget, moreover, that Medford was small and poor and insignificant, enveloped literally and overshadowed by its larger and more prosperous neighbor, Charlestown. It was scarcely more than Governor Cradock's farm; and in 1700 its population probably did not exceed two hundred souls. In 1686 the county rate contained only fourteen names, and the whole number of polls in 1695 was but twenty-six. While the law passed by the Colonial Court in 1692 required every town of fifty householders to support a school for reading and writing, it was not till twenty-seven years later that Medford made any move to establish such a school. Lying so near Boston, we may feel certain that if she had had the requisite number of people she would have been obliged to comply with the law, even if reluctant to do so. Its insignificance, furthermore, may be inferred from the fact that although incorporated as a town in 1630 no one of its people seemed to be aware of the fact till about 1680, — fifty years later, — and the first white child born within its borders had become an old man of eighty-three before it had a settled minister, and this in a thorough-going puritan settlement.

Very likely as she drew her preaching from ministers settled in the surrounding towns, and from young men studying in Harvard college, so her brighter and more ambitious boys managed to attend the public schools

established in those places. The distance was not excessive, and the boys of those days did not shrink from such a daily walk as this would require.

"Moreover, the children of those days learned to spell work with a capital W," says Martin in his "Evolution of the Public Schools of Massachusetts." If they came "trailing clouds of glory," nevertheless "the shades of the prison house" began early to close about them, and long before they became men they must have perceived "the vision splendid die away and fade into the light of common day."

We are accustomed to think and to say that our ancestors when they landed on these shores brought with them the meeting-house and the school-house, and that these were the corner-stones on which they built. In a certain sense this is true. They brought the meeting-house to be sure, and they gave neither sleep to their eyes nor slumber to their eyelids till they had erected a house wherein to worship God; but the school-house had to wait. The children's day had not then dawned, only the first faint streaks of light were visible above the eastern horizon. Neither Plato in his perfect republic nor Sir Thomas More in his ideal state had ever dreamed of such a thing as the American common school, where every child, the poorest as well as the richest, girl as well as boy, can claim, not as a charity, but as a right, the possession of the keys of all knowledge; and for the support of which a first mortgage is held on every cent of the accumulations of every childless millionaire.

The law of 1642, while recognizing to the full parental responsibility, suggested not only the viciousness of indolence and the educative office of labor, but just as plainly indicated the state ownership of the child and its responsibility for him.

Horace Mann had not yet formulated his three famous propositions on which the common school system of Massachusetts rests:

"1st. That the successive generations of men, taken collectively, constitute one great commonwealth.

"2d. That the property of this commonwealth is pledged for the education of all its youth up to such a point as will save them from poverty and vice, and prepare them for the adequate performance of their social and civil duties.

"3d. That the successive holders of this property are trustees, bound to the faithful execution of their trust by the most sacred obligations; and that embezzlement and pillage from children have not less of criminality, and more of meanness, than the same offences perpetrated against contemporaries."

Although three generations had lived and died and been buried on the banks of the Mystic before the first allusion to the matter of education appears on its records, we may be sure that the children had not been wholly neglected. Domestic instruction by the mother was obliged to take the place of any public schooling, and we may be sure also that women whose hearts were brave enough to follow their husbands to this savage shore were wise enough to see that their babes were not wholly left a prey to ignorance. And so while the husband was fighting Indians and wringing subsistence from a reluctant soil, the wife was seeing to it that the children learned to read the Bible and repeat the catechism and obey the commandments of God.

We may not doubt that the dame school flourished — a school, as the poet Crabbe sings:

> "Where a poor, deaf, patient widow sits
> And awes some thirty urchins as she knits;
> Infants of humble, busy wives, who pay
> Some trifling price for freedom for the day.
> At this good matron's hut the children meet,
> Who thus becomes the mother of the street;
> Her room is small, they cannot widely stray;
> Her threshold high, they cannot run away;
> With band of yarn she keeps offenders in,
> And to her gown the sturdiest rogues can pin."

The sanded floor served as blackboard, and the same rod that struck terror to evil-doers made a very good substitute for a crayon, a bit of birch bark or a broad chip made an excellent slate, and charcoal was as good as chalk.

The home, which with their descendants seems to be so fast dying out, was the centre and source of their whole life. "It was the conviction," says Mayo in his "Public Schools in the Colonial Period," "that every child born into this world is the child of God, capable of becoming a vital and useful member of society; and the corresponding obligation of the community to give to it the opportunity of that training at home, in the church, and in the school, which should send it forth at early manhood or womanhood a self-directing competent person and a reputable citizen of a self-governed state, that was at work silently and persistently below the surface. This conviction was the corner-stone of every respectable New England home, and explains, as nothing else can, the domestic life of that people. And out of the New England home, not from church or state, was born the early New England school. Here was the beginning of the American common school, the most precious gift to the Republic from the genius of New England, — the stone for two hundred and fifty years so persistently rejected by the builders of other commonwealths, but in these later days now recognized as the head of the corner, — the corner-stone of the new republic that cannot be broken, but upon whomsoever it shall fall it shall grind him to powder."

Their ideas of education were crude, doubtless, but they were fully abreast of the times in which they lived, when only the preacher and the politician, the doctor and the lawyer, needed to know more than to read and write; and when, if a girl knew how to spin and to rock a cradle, she had all the education that was good for her. "Of the women," says Martin, "whose names appear in the recorded deeds of the early part of the eighteenth century, more than sixty per cent. made their mark."

In the management of the schools the ministers took a leading part; in fact, when laymen were joined with them as visitors and examiners, the ministers looked upon it rather as an impertinence. The school was opened and closed with prayer, and when the minister visited the school he never neglected to pray with the children. No one but a church member would have been allowed to keep a school, and no one not a church member would have presumed to do so.

Perhaps the following lines from Coote's "English Schoolmaster," a famous manual of that day in England, may have been the substance of the School Rules and Regulations:

THE SCHOOLMASTER TO HIS SCHOLARS.

My child and scholar, take good heed
Unto the words that here are set,
And see thou do accordingly,
Or else be sure thou shalt be beat.

First I command thee God to serve,
Then to thy parents duty yield;
Unto all men be courteous,
And mannerly in town and field.

Your clothes unbuttoned do not use;
Let not your hose ungartered be;
Have handkerchief in readiness;
Wash hands and face, or see not me.

Lose not your books, inkhorns, or pens,
Nor girdle, garters, hat, or band;
Let shoes be tied, pin shirt-band close;
Keep well your hands at any hand.

If broken hosed or shoed you go,
Or slovenly in your array,
Without a girdle or untrust,
Then you and I must have a fray.

If that thou cry or talk aloud,
Or books do rend, or strike with knife,
Or laugh or play unlawfully,
Then you and I must be at strife.

If that you curse, miscall, or swear,
If that you pick, filch, steal, or lie,
If you forget a scholar's part,
Then must you sure your points untie.

If that to school you do not go
What time doth call you to the same,
Or if you loiter in the streets,
When we do meet then look for blame.

Wherefore, my child, behave thyself
So decently in all assays,
That thou mayst purchase parent's love
And eke obtain thy master's praise.

But they were at work on foundations. They builded better than they knew, — perhaps better in many cases than they intended, — for we may believe that God overrules the unwisdom of the sincere and honest worker and evolves therefrom something far better than he dared to hope for. They planted industry and personal responsibility and the fear of God; they watered the tiny plants with sweat and tears; and there have grown up and spread, till they overshadow a nation of seventy millions, civil and religious liberty and universal education.

At the town meeting the most frequent matters for consideration were the preacher and the meeting-house. The meeting-house, by the way, was literally the meeting-house where all matters secular as well as spiritual were discussed and settled. When every citizen was a member of the church, and no other person was thought fit to vote, and when spiritual and secular affairs were all one, this seemed the proper thing to do.

The first entry in our records concerning schools was on July 20, 1719, when the town voted to hire some meet person to keep a writing school in the town for three or four months in the winter season, and a committee of seven men, consisting of Captain Tufts, Capt. Ebenezer Brooks, Lieut. Stephen Hall, Eng^{n} Stephen Francis, Mr. Jno. Willis, Dea. Whitmore, and

Mr. Jona. Tufts, was chosen to treat with some person to keep said school. Nothing came from the above action, perhaps owing to the size of the committee.

At another meeting, held on November 30, the same year, the town voted to have a school kept in the house of Thomas Willis, the ensuing winter, and a committee of three men, consisting of Eng^{n} Jno. Bradshaw, Capt. Ebenezer Brooks, and Mr. John Willis, was chosen to agree with some suitable person to keep a writing and reading school in town three or four months the ensuing winter, and to make return of their doings to the town at the next town meeting. We note in the action at this meeting that the people have diminished the size of their committee, have enlarged the curriculum of their school to include reading, have settled on a place where the school shall be kept, and instructed their committee to go ahead and to report their doings. Evidently they are in earnest and mean to have a school kept next winter.

At a meeting held December 11 of the same year, 1719, this committee reported the name of Mr. Henry Davison for schoolmaster for three months, and the town voted to pay him £3 and his board. Whether Mr. Davison was to board round or not the vote does not specify. The money was to be raised by levy on the inhabitants, provided it was not furnished by voluntary subscription. A committee of six men was chosen to find out whether Mr. Davison would accept the town's offer, and Thomas Tufts and Ebenezer Brooks were chosen to collect the above subscription in case it could be collected.

At a meeting held Feb. 22, 1720, the town voted to choose a committee of five men to select a site for a school-house to accommodate the whole town, and to report at the next meeting in March. This committee consisted of Capt. Peter Tufts, Dea. John Whitmore, Capt. Ebenezer Brooks, Mr. John Willis, and Mr. John Richardson, but no report of their doings appears on

the records of the town. The minds of the people seem to have been suddenly turned to the subject of erecting a new meeting-house, and the school-house must wait.

The next winter two schools were kept, one at the east end of the town under Master Henery Davison, and one at the west end under Master Caleb Brooks.

Master Brooks was to receive forty shillings a month, and Master Davison four pounds and what he might obtain of his scholars in addition thereto. Of the character and personality of these two Medford schoolmasters nothing whatever has come down to us, so far as I have been able to discover. To them, however, belongs the proud distinction of being the only schoolmasters whose names appear on the records of the town previous to the Revolutionary War.[1]

From this time forward to the present day we may safely conclude, I think, that Medford has rarely been without its public winter school. Town meetings in which the subject of schools was to be considered, or meetings called for that special purpose, became frequent, and evidently the people were waking up to the importance of education for their children, but we hear no more about building a school-house till 1730.

On the 5th of October in this year the town voted to build a school-house on the town land by the meeting-house, chose a committee of five men to attend to the matter, and then promptly refused to appropriate any money therefor. The next year, 1731, the town repeated the performance — voted to build the school-house, and then refused to raise the money. On the 17th of January, 1732, the town again refused to raise money to build a school-house.

On 25th of September, 1732, the town voted to build a school-house, to be finished the 25th of November. Captain Brooks was chairman of a committee of three to attend to the matter, and, although no appropriation was made at the time, and no allusion is made to the

matter at a meeting held the next January, I am inclined to think the building was erected.

From about 1736 Medford seems to have had what may be called an annual school — that is, for seven or eight months each year, as this year the people voted to have a school from September to May.

On the 30th of July, 1738, they voted to have a school for the space of a year, and July 23, 1739, they voted to have an annual school.

The hiring of the master and the care of the school was usually put in the hands of a special committee, as now, but for some years before the Revolution the selectmen were charged with that duty.

The studies pursued were very few, but they sufficed. Reading, writing, and the fundamental operations in arithmetic — the three R's — were all that found a place in the course of studies in those early schools. I will spare my readers an enumeration of the things we are expected to study and teach to-day.

Beginning about 1750, at each annual meeting, after voting the minister's salary, the town immediately votes to provide a school for the ensuing year. These were the first matters attended to. Evidently the education of their children was coming to the front. And as we approach 1776, although the records throb with drum-beats and glisten with bayonets, there are no indications of any failing of that deep interest which from that day to this Medford has ever shown in her public schools.[2]

[1] Mr. J. W. Dean, librarian of the New England Genealogical Society, suggests, and he is probably correct, that Master Caleb Brooks was the father of Gov. John Brooks.

[2] The last warrant for town meeting issued in his majesty's name was dated March 6, 1775, signed by RICHARD HALL, *Town Clerk*. Thus early it would seem the people of Medford were beginning to dream of complete independence.

MEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

THE Medford Historical Society was incorporated under Massachusetts laws, May 22, 1896.

The incorporators were Wm. Cushing Wait, Will C. Eddy, Lorin L. Dame, Mrs. Louise G. DeLong, Miss Helen T. Wild, Miss Eliza M. Gill, Miss Mary E. Sargent, Allston P. Joyce, and Charles H. Loomis.

The objects of the Society are "to collect, preserve, and disseminate the local and general history of Medford and the genealogy of Medford families; to make antiquarian collections; to collect books of general history, genealogy, and biography; and to prepare, or cause to be prepared, from time to time such papers and records relating to these subjects as may be of general interest to the members."

Medford is one of the "ancient and honorable" communities of the country. Founded in 1630, its municipal life has been patriotic, dignified, and law-abiding, while the family history of many of its citizens is filled with facts and experiences relating to "ye early tymes," which have an irresistible charm for all those who "venerate the historic."

It is a cause for regret that such a society had not been organized many years ago, as doubtless with the breaking up of old families year by year, much of antiquarian interest and value has been scattered, and presumably lost.

There are many individuals in the community personally interested in historical research, and a suggestion in the local paper, written by Mr. Will C. Eddy, that a Historical Society be formed, found a quick and hearty response from many kindred spirits.

Preliminary meetings were held, and organization and incorporation were effected.

The charter list contained one hundred and thirty-two names.

The Society sprang at once into active and agressive life. In October, 1896, it planned and carried to a successful issue a historic festival, happily named "On the Banks of the Mystic," and which was conceded to be, as a whole, the finest entertainment ever presented to a Medford audience. The financial results of the festival enabled the Society to rent and suitably furnish the quarters now occupied, a cut of which is shown on the cover of this register. The house is itself an interesting landmark, having the distinction of a goodly age, and of being the birthplace of Lydia Maria (Francis) Child, in 1802. A large representation of the Society's seal on a wooden tablet designates the building as the headquarters of the Medford Historical Society.

REMINDERS.

Medford was settled in 1630 by followers of JOHN WINTHROP.
Enjoyed in her early years the patronage of MATTHEW CRADOCK.
During the Revolution her soldiers fought under WASHINGTON.
Favored in 1824 with a visit from the noble LAFAYETTE.
On to Lexington through Medford rode gallant PAUL REVERE.
Recalls with pride the patriotic deeds of SARAH BRADLEE FULTON.
Devoted to the memory of her greatest son, JOHN BROOKS.

Her history is replete with interest; her record is honorable.
Into the Civil War she sent 769 Union soldiers.
She has ever been foremost in the cause of education.
The Keels of Medford-built ships have ploughed every sea.
On the banks of the Mystic shipbuilding flourished seventy years.
Responded with her "Minute men" to the call in 1775.
Indian Chief Nanepashemit lived on Rock Hill, 1615.
Cradock House built in 1634 still stands in good condition.
Admitted to have one of the finest High School Buildings.
Lydia Maria Child born in house occupied by Historical Society.

Saw her favorite son seven times Governor of Massachusetts.
On College Hill stands Tufts College, opened in August, 1855.
City charter adopted 1892; City Government organized January, 1893.
In natural beauties of woods and hills is well favored.
Enjoys the distinction of being a city of homes.
That because when every one does something much is accomplished
You should develop and cherish an interest in Medford history.

MEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Officers.

President.

WILLIAM CUSHING WAIT.

Vice-Presidents.

WILL C. EDDY, BENJ. P. HOLLIS,
LORIN L. DAME, MRS. H. C. DELONG.

Recording Secretary.
HELEN T. WILD.

Corresponding Secretary.
ELIZA M. GILL.

Treasurer.

CHARLES H. LOOMIS.

Librarian and Curator.

MARY E. SARGENT.

Standing Committees.

Membership.

BENJ. P. HOLLIS, DR. J. E. CLEAVES,
BENJ. F. MORRISON, DR. R. J. P. GOODWIN,
MISS FANNIE E. BEMIS.

Publication.

R. B. LAWRENCE, WILL C. EDDY,
WALTER H. CUSHING, DR. R. J. P. GOODWIN,
CHARLES H. LOOMIS.

Papers and Addresses.

DAVID H. BROWN, CHARLES N. JONES,
GEORGE E. DAVENPORT, JOHN WARD DEAN,
CHARLES H. MORSS.

Historic Sites.

L. L. DAME, WILL C. EDDY,
MISS E. L. BURBANK, WALTER H. CUSHING.

Genealogy.

ALLSTON P. JOYCE, MISS E. S. HINCKLEY,
MISS E. A. BLACK, CHARLES E. LARKIN,
DAVID H. BROWN.

Heraldry.

BENJ. P. HOLLIS, F. H. C. WOOLLEY,
J. EDSON YOUNG, CHARLES B. DUNHAM,
WILLIAM F. KINGMAN.

Library and Collections.

MISS MARY E. SARGENT, MISS KATHERINE H. STONE,
WALTER F. CUSHING, MISS AGNES W. LINCOLN.

Historic Photographs and Portraits.

WILL C. EDDY, JOHN H. HOOPER,
DR. R. J. P. GOODWIN.

MEMBERS.

[Those marked with a star (*) are life members.]

Allen, Edward F.
Allen, Oscar H.
Andrews, Gustavus F.
Archibald, Warren M.
Atherton, Miss Lily B.
Atwood, Miss Louise.
Ayers, Miss Alice E.
Ayers, Fred E.

Baer, John Willis.
Balcom, Edward H.
Barker, Abner H.
Barker, William S., Jr.
Barrett, Miss Mary C.
Barstow, Rev. John.
Bean, James.
Bemis, Miss Fannie E.
Bird, Charles H.
Black, Miss E. Adelaide.
Blanchard, Miss Sarah J.
*Boynton, Hon. Eleazer.
Brooks, Frederick.
Brooks, Henry.
Brown, Mrs. Abby D.
Brown, David H.
Brown, Edward B.
Brown, Mrs. Harriet W.
Bullard, B. F.
Burbank, Miss Ella L.
Burbank, Miss Ida E.
Buss, Herman L.

Chandler, Dr. N. F.
Chany, Miss A. Clara.
Chipman, Miss Bessie.
Clark, Mrs. Annie G.
Clark, Miss Mary S.
Clark, Miss Sarah L.
Cleaves, Dr James E.
Cleaves, Mrs. Emmie N.
Coffin, Freeman C.
Converse, M. M.
Cordis, Mrs. Adelaide E.
Craig, Wm. C.
Crockett, George W.
Crockett, Mrs. Katherine M.
Croudis, George A.
Croudis, Mrs. Mabel H.
Cushing, Samuel.
Cushing, Mrs. Samuel.
Cushing, Walter F.
Cushing, Walter H.
Cushing, Mrs. Carrie E.

Dame, Lorin L.
Dame, Mrs. Isabel A.
Davenport, George E.
Dean, John W.
Dean, Mrs. Lydia E.
Delano, George S.
De Long, Rev. Henry C.
De Long, Mrs. Louise G.
Dennison, Edward B.
Dinsmore, Miss Jessie M.
Doland, Henry B.
Dunham, Charles B.
Durgin, Miss Annie E.

Eddy, Will C.
Eddy, Mrs. Rosalie S.
Evans, Allston H.

Fenton, Benj. F.
Ford, Frederic W.
Foster, George O.
Foster, Mrs. Blanche.

Gibson, George A
Gibson, Mrs Ruth.
Gill, Mrs. Ellen M.
Gill, Miss Eliza M.
Gill, Miss Emma F.
Gleason, Charles M.
Gleason, Hon. Daniel A.
Goodwin, James O.
Goodwin, Mrs. Emma W.
Goodwin, Dr. R. J. P.
Green, Dr. Charles M.
Grimes, Mark M.
Guild, Gustavus F.
Gunn, J. Newton.

Hall, George S.
Hall, Horace D.
Hall, Dr. W. L.
Hallowell, Mrs. Anna D.
Hallowell, Miss May.
Hallowell, N. P.
Hallowell, Richard P.
Harlow, Miss Catherine E.
Haskins, Mrs. M J.
Hatch, Frank E.
Hayes, Edward W.

Hayes, Miss Martha E.
Hedenberg, Dr. James.
Hervey, James A.
Hillman, Charles H.
Hinckley, Miss Ella S.
Hodges, Gilbert.
Hogan, Mrs. Mary.
Hollis, Benjamin P.
Hooper, John H.
Howard, Daniel N.

Johnson, Cleophas B.
Jones, Charles N.
Jones, Mrs. Frances W.
Jones, Miss Amy W.
Jones, James E.
Joyce, Allston P.

Kidder, Fred H.
Kidder, Mrs. C. Edith.
Kingman, William F.
Kummer, Charles E.

Langell, E. I.
Larkin, Charles E.
Law, Asa.
*Lawrence, Rosewell B.
Lawrence, Hon. Samuel C.
Lawrence, Mrs. Carrie R.
Leary, Mrs. Fanny S.
Leighton, Miss Ella.
Leonard, Benjamin C.
Lincoln, Miss Agnes W.
Loomis, Charles H.
Loomis, Mrs. Mary B.
Loring, Clifton.
Lovering, Frank H.
Lovering, Hon. Lewis H.
Lufkin, Miss E. A.

Macomber, W. M.
Mansfield, Daniel G.
Martin, Miss Martha J.
Maxwell, William R.
McIntire, Dana I.
Means, George B.
Miller, J. C., Jr.
Montague, Fred W.
Moore, Ernest B.
Morrison, Benjamin F.
Morss, Charles H.

Nimmo, Mrs. Helen M.
Nimmo, Andrew.
Norcross, J. Henry.
Norcross, Mrs. C. J. W.
Nottage, Henry B.
Nye, Charles E.

Ober, J. E.
Oldfield, John.
Oldfield, Mrs. Mary.
Oldfield, Miss Ada.

Page, Mrs. Annie M.
Papkee, J. A.
Parker, Charles H.
Peak, Irvin E.
Peak, Mrs. Esther R.
Phemister, E. A.
Plummer, Mrs. J. M. G.
Porter, Miss Helen.

Randall, Edward S.
Russell, Mrs. Cora L.

Sampson, George T.
Sampson, Miss Ellen R.
Sargent, Miss Mary E.
Shultis, Mark.
Shultis, Mrs. Kate D.
Spinney, Frank T.
Stetson, George W.
Stickney, Allison M.
Stickney, Mrs. Allison M.
Stone, Miss Katherine H.
Street, John D.
Swan, Charles H.
Swift, Miss Caroline E.
Symmes, Miss Amelia M.

Teele, Edward W.
Thompson, Wm. A.

Wait, William Cushing.
Wait, Francis A.
Wait, Miss Hetty F.
Wait, Miss Sarah H.
Washburne, Miss M. Louise.
Wilber, Nahum E.
Wilber, Mortimer E.
Wild, Miss Helen T.
Withington, Henry.
Wood, Joseph W.
Woolley, Fred. H. C.
Wright, Thomas G.
*Wright, Walter C.

THE MEDFORD BLACKSMITH OF 1775.

By R. J. P. Goodwin, M.D.

ONE of the early settlers in Medford, about 1770, was Harry Bond, who came here from Londonderry, New Hampshire, to follow the occupation of a blacksmith.

He was the grandson of John Bond, of Scotch-Irish ancestry, who took an active part in the siege of Londonderry, 1689. Harry was tall, robust, and of large frame, a characteristic of the people of the North of Ireland, from whom he was descended.

At the time of which we write there stood at the corner of the Medford turnpike and Main street, a blacksmith shop, a plain and unpretentious structure, whose weather-beaten look denoted it had been built many years.

A venerable oak-tree standing in front of the shop, with its overhanging branches, gave cooling shadows in the summer days.

The wide and open door gave a view of the interior. On one side could be seen a massive framework, into which oxen were driven and secured in a sling while being shod. This operation was a curiosity to passers-by, especially to the children, on their way to and from school. The glowing sparks as they fell from the anvil mingled with the chorus of the sturdy blows struck by the smith, from early morn till late at night, as he pursued his calling at the forge.

The old shop, like the village tavern, had long been the rendezvous of the loungers of the neighborhood, and here many of the patriots gathered to discuss the troubled affairs of the country.

But a little farther up the street stood the Royall House, where were wont to gather the Tories and adherents of the King. It was a time when neighbor was to be arrayed against neighbor.

For several days prior to June 16, 1775, farmers from Woburn, Billerica, Burlington, and Bedford had passed through Medford over the turnpike on their way to Charlestown neck, where they congregated at the old tavern located where Sullivan's Square Park now stands. As they passed the smithy many stopped to replace a shoe lost by their horse on the way thither.

This increased patronage obliged Harry Bond to continue his work late into the night, so that it afforded a good excuse for the gathering of so many citizens at the shop where was being discussed in secret the projected movements of the Continental Army, — as it was known by them that a determined stand was to be made and earthworks thrown up at Bunker Hill within a few days.

The preparations for the battle had been so quietly and secretly carried on that the Tories at the Royall House were in entire ignorance of what was transpiring so near them. Had they been informed they would doubtless have apprised General Howe at Boston, and the British troops would have been landed in Charlestown early enough to have prevented the gathering of the American forces.

The slaves at the Royall House, true to their instinct of freedom, kept the patriots of Medford informed of every movement made at their home.

The hot blood of Harry Bond, which he had inherited from his Irish ancestors who had withstood a siege of a hundred days in 1689 in defence of right, was fully aroused, and after closing his shop on the night of June 16 he informed his wife that on the morrow he should shoulder his gun, go to Bunker Hill, and do what he could for his country, even to the giving of his life if it became necessary. The morning of the 17th showed to the astonished Britishers in Boston the earthworks erected on Breed's Hill.

The engagement, as we know, opened by the firing of guns from the fleet in the harbor and from the redoubt on Copp's Hill, Boston, the Americans reserving their fire

until the British troops had landed in Charlestown and, marching up, had nearly reached the breastworks. All through the desperate fighting that followed the first attack, the tall and stalwart form of Harry Bond was conspicuous, first here and then there, exposing himself fearlessly. Step by step the patriots were obliged to retreat, stubbornly contesting the way, fighting with clubbed muskets when their ammunition had become exhausted. In the midst of the last ranks to leave the hill, Harry could be seen waving aloft the colonial flag, which he had snatched from the hands of the color-bearer who had fallen, when he was shot dead by a British grenadier. His body was brought away by some of his friends who had witnessed his death. A few days after his remains were interred in the old Cross-street cemetery, where they fill a patriot's grave. The old blacksmith shop has disappeared; other industries of a like character occupy its site. The old Royall House, once the nursery of Tory schemes, still stands. The slave quarters are there, but their sable occupants have long since departed.

Medford sent many of its noble sons to the Revolutionary Army, and to the War of the Rebellion she gave of her best blood.

The echoes of the drum and fife of the Revolution and the bugle-calls of the Rebellion have long since died away, and we trust our goodly town may never again be called upon to sacrifice her sons in war.

SARAH BRADLEE FULTON CHAPTER, D.A.R.

By Eliza M. Gill, Historian.

THIS local chapter of the patriotic order known as the Daughters of the American Revolution was formally organized on Dec. 17, 1896. Its formation was the outcome of a correspondence between Madame Anna Von Rydingsvärd, then State Regent of Massa-

chusetts, and Mrs. Ellen M. Gill, of our city. At the suggestion of the latter, the matter was put into the hands of Mrs. Emma W. Goodwin, at that time a member of Old Concord Chapter, and under her guidance, and the incentive of her own interest in the work, the preliminary meetings were called, and the necessary steps taken to effect organization. The following names appear in the charter: Mrs. Mary S. Goodale, Mrs. Mary B. Loomis, Miss Helen T. Wild, Miss Adeline B. Gill, Mrs. Emma W. Goodwin, Miss Eliza M. Gill, Mrs. S. Olive Loring, Miss M. Gertrude Bragdon, Miss Bertha G. Paige, Miss Jessie M. Dinsmore, Mrs. Hannah E. Ayers, Mrs. Sarah F. E. Bruce, Miss Sarah L. Clark, Miss Mabel W. Goodwin, Miss Clara W. Goodwin.

The objects of the Order are briefly —

To perpetuate the memory and the spirit of the men and women who achieved American Independence.

To promote, as an object of primary importance, institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge.

To cherish, maintain, and extend the institutions of American freedom, to foster true patriotism and love of country, and to aid in securing for mankind all the blessings of liberty.

The chapter was named in honor of Sarah Bradlee Fulton, one of the most heroic women of the Revolution, and a resident of Medford from 1772 to the time of her death in 1835.

The chapter started under auspicious circumstances, and holds a warm place in the consideration of our citizens. Its relation to the Medford Historical Society is most happy, the work of the two organizations being along similar lines.

Our meetings are held in the Historical Rooms.

The special work of the past year has been the locating, and decorating on Memorial Day, the graves of Revolutionary soldiers.

Our present membership is thirty-seven, with a waiting list of eleven.

The chapter is officered, for the year 1898, as follows:

Regent. — Mrs. M. Susie Goodale.
Vice-Regent. — Mrs. Mary B. Loomis.
Registrar. — Mrs. Emma W. Goodwin.
Secretary. — Miss Helen T. Wild.
Historian. — Miss Eliza M. Gill.
Treasurer. — Miss Sarah L. Clark.

Board of Managers.

Mrs. Asaphine De F. Manning.
Mrs. Hannah E. Ayers.
Miss Adeline B. Gill.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PRESERVING EARLY HISTORY.

By Hon. Mellen Chamberlain.

SEVERAL things are essential to the accomplishment of this purpose. One of the most important is the systematic collection of historical material. I assume that the Medford Society is designed primarily for the collection and preservation of Medford history, of which few towns have one more creditable.

No one who has not undertaken to write the history of his own town can have an adequate sense of the difficulties to be encountered in such an undertaking. He first seeks all former attempts likely to aid him, whether in printed volumes, or in outlines of town history found in Thanksgiving sermons, Fourth of July orations, or occasional discourses. But in twenty-five years after such addresses were printed, he may seek long, far, and wide without finding a copy of either. I speak from experience.

Therefore any proposed collection should include not only all such discourses, but also town reports and directories. It is true that they are not interesting reading, and at the end of the year generally find their way to the fire-kindling box ; but to the historian they are of inestimable value.

Of equal value are plans of roads, — public or private, — of bridges and of private estates. These last are of special interest. The history of Medford is largely the history of her eminent men, whose lives have contributed so much to the making of her history ; and perhaps there is no stronger desire of their descendants, or of citizens generally, than that of going to the houses in which they lived and tracing the acres they cultivated. But in most cases these ancestral houses no longer exist, and the ancestral acres have been divided into several farms or cut up into house-lots. I hope that there are those among your members who will give special attention to marking the exact bounds of the old farms, and the sites of the buildings on them. These plans, of course, should be carefully preserved, and, if made, I venture the prediction that no part of your collection will be more assiduously examined, or with more grateful recognition of the value of the services of your society.

The local press is the receptacle of a vast amount of matter not only of present interest, but of great value to the future historian. Its issues will of course find a willingly accorded place in your rooms. I have been favorably impressed by a device of the late Dr. George H. Moore, a historical writer of great excellence, and librarian of the New York Historical Society. He collected not only one but two copies of local papers — one for binding and another for scrapping ; and so that society has a series of newspaper scrap-books of the local press, covering many years, and containing in most convenient form for reference the matters which the historian seeks.

Some years ago a very intelligent citizen of a neighboring city, who had been long resident and participant in its affairs, from the time when it changed from an agricultural community into a prosperous town, ultimately to become a city, contributed to one of the papers a series of articles in which, with remarkable fulness and

accuracy, he gave the sites of the residences of the principal citizens, so that they can now be exactly defined, although many of the buildings no longer exist ; and what is of equal importance, the original conformation of the harbor shore, and the subsequent changes made by the cutting down of hills and casting them into the sea to the considerable extension of the city's territory. The paper long since ceased to be published, and it is doubtful if a bound copy of it is anywhere to be found ; and these articles now are extant only in a single scrapped copy. They should go into a fireproof repository, and their present owner awaits the preparation of such a repository.

Now with regard to manuscripts. Doubtless many families in Medford have family papers of great historical value, which they would decline to part with, preferring to hand them down through successive generations of the family as heirlooms. This natural and commendable purpose might well be entertained but for two reasons. In England the law of entail which sends estates down through generations of a family, and the general existence of a fireproof room, render transmission reasonably practicable and safe ; but with us the absence of both of these conditions makes it quite otherwise. Let me relate one or two cases which came within my own observation. In the State of Maine lived a man of high consideration in the period of the Revolution, and his papers were second in value to those of few others. As has so often happened, his family declined in fortune. I once visited the old family mansion, then in possession of a female descendant, to whom I suggested, with all possible delicacy, my wish to obtain, for historical purposes and at considerable cost, her ancestor's papers. My proposition was treated as insulting, and I went away. Not long after the lady died, and in less than six months after, her successor to the estate sold to a tin pedler, in exchange for some of his wares, the identical papers which I had

been ready to acquire at their fair value. The pedler was not aware of their value except as rags, and carried them to the capital of a neighboring State, where by the merest accident they fell into appreciative hands and ultimately into mine, though sadly impaired in value by careless treatment.

Another case more important has come also within my observation. Some years ago, at the request of the city government of Chelsea, I undertook to write the history of Winnisimmet and Rumney Marsh, from the earliest times. My first inquiry was at the city hall for the old town files, and I was told that there was not even a scrap. Some hints were found in the colony records respecting two cases which proved to be of the highest interest and importance, but neither in the files nor elsewhere were there any papers, for the reason which will immediately appear. One of these cases was respecting the Capt. Robert Keayne estate in what is now Revere, and the other was that of Gov. Richard Bellingham's farms, which included the whole of the city of Chelsea. These cases raged in every court, — colonial, provincial, and State, — and the latter was in the English courts, and finally settled only at the end of one hundred and fourteen years from its beginning. Yet nobody knew anything about them save some vague statements found in the public records; and the reason was this: A Chelsea town clerk, who was also concerned in the later stages of the Bellingham case, on removing from Chelsea, near the close of the last century, carried with him into a remote country town not only all the Bellingham case papers, but also the greater part of the town files, both of which have been lately discovered in a very imperfect and dilapidated condition. The above cases are by no means isolated; on the contrary, they have been very common.

I will only add that doubtless Medford, like every ancient town, possesses many intelligent men and women who are competent to recall, investigate, and set down for preservation, local changes, biographical

notices, genealogical notes, and other facts which will be otherwise irrecoverably lost, but which, if preserved, will be of great value to the future history of the town.

HISTORIC SITES.

THE work of the Committee on Historic Sites has taken permanent form in three tablets already placed, with the subject-matter for several others well under way. Those placed are as follows:

BUILT BY
GOV. MATTHEW CRADOCK,
1634.

CRADOCK HOUSE, RIVERSIDE AVENUE.

THE AQUEDUCT BY WHICH THE MIDDLESEX CANAL CROSSED THE MYSTIC RIVER RESTED UPON THE IDENTICAL ABUTMENTS AND PIERS WHICH NOW SUPPORT THIS BRIDGE.

BOSTON-AVENUE BRIDGE OVER MYSTIC RIVER.

HERE STOOD,
1727–1770,
THE SECOND MEETING HOUSE OF MEDFORD.

REV. EBENEZER TURRELL.

SOUTH SIDE OF HIGH STREET, NEAR MEETING HOUSE BROOK.

This work has been, of necessity, slow. Not only have the records of Medford been examined very closely, but the records at East Cambridge and Boston.

Tablets are under way to mark the site of the First Church, one for the Royall House, old Wade House, and many other historic spots.

It is hoped by the committee to make this work thorough and complete with the gift of the funds from the late Town Improvement Society.

LITERAL COPY

OF

BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES IN MEDFORD FROM EARLIEST RECORDS.

Compiled by Miss Ella S. Hinckley.

25: day of february 1676 Goodman Tufts his daughter Anna was borne
27: day of January 1678 Goodman Tufts his ſon peter was borne
Mr: Natt: Wade his ſon Nath[l] was Borne 13: July 1673
his ſiſter Mercy was Borne 19: of ſeptember 1678
14: January 1679 Daniell woodward & Elizabeth Dana was married then
8: May: 78 Jno: whitmore his ſon ffrancis & daughter Abigall was borne
31: March $\frac{78}{79}$ Jno Hall his daughter Sarah was borne
30: January $\frac{1680}{81}$ petter Tuft his daughter Mary was borne
22: Aprill 1681 Daniell woodward his daughter elizabeth was borne
16: November 81 Jno: Hall his ſon Thomas was borne
4: January $\frac{1683}{84}$ Jno: Hall his ſon william died
Daniell woodward his daughter Mary was born 15: aprill 1683
John Hall his ſone Jonathan was born 28 ſeptember 1677
October 19: 1673 Thomas Willis his daughter Elizibeth was Borne
Aprill 9: 1677 Thomas Willis his daughter Jane was Borne
october 3: 1677 Stephen Willis his daughter Abigaill was borne
febtem 19: 1679 Stephen Willis his ſone Thomas was Borne
novemb 16: 1679 Thomas Willis his ſone Stephen was Borne
Aprill 10: 1679 Iſack fox his ſone Iſack was Borne
march 11: 168$\frac{1}{2}$ Iſack fox his daughter Abigaill Borne
August 6: 1681 Stephen Willis his ſone John was Borne
March 31: 1683 Peter Tufts his ſone Thomas was Borne
August 27: 1683 John Whitmore his ſone John was Borne
novemb 15: 1683 Iſack fox his daughter Hannah Borne
february 23: 168$\frac{3}{4}$ Stephen Willis his ſone Jonathan was Borne
March 7: 168$\frac{4}{5}$ Iſack fox his daughter hannah dyed
Aprill 24: 1684 Iſack fox his ſone John was Borne
July 15: 1684 Peter Tufts his wife elizibeth dyed
decemb 16: 1684 Peter Tufts & mercy Cotton maried
January 5: 1684 Daniell Woodward his ſone Daniell Borne
July 7: 1685 William Willis ſone of thomas & grace willis born

July 1: 1685 Jonathan Tufts his ſone Jonathan Borne
March 5 $168\frac{2}{3}$ Capt Nathaniell Wade his ſone Jonathan borne
December 31: 1683 Capt Nathaniell Wade his ſone ſamuell borne
october 7: 1685 Capt Nathaniell Wade his daughter anne borne
march 1: $168\frac{4}{5}$ Stephen ffrances his daughter lydia borne
June 11: 1686 Peter Tufts his ſone Cotton Borne
July 28 1686 peter Tufts his ſone Cotton dyed
December 23 1686 Caleb Brooks his daughter Susan dyed
October 30: 1686 Stephen Willis his ſone Benjaman borne
February 14: $168\frac{6}{7}$ Daniell Woodward his daugh Abigall born
March 12 $168\frac{6}{7}$ Capt Nathaniell Wade his daugh dorothy borne
Aprill 30: 1687 Iſack Fox his sone Samuell Borne
July 4: 1687 Peter Tufts his daughter mercy Borne
May 8: 1687 John Bradsho his daughter mary borne
march 8: $168\frac{7}{8}$ Peter Tufts his daughter mercy dyed
February 7: $168\frac{7}{8}$ Capt Jonath Wade his daughter dorithy borne
Aprill 11: 1688 John Tufts his daughter mary borne
——— 29: 1688 Jonathan Tufts his sone John Borne
Decemb 15: 1688 Jonathan Tufts the ſone of Jonathan & Rebekah Tufts dyed
———b 21: 1688 Elizibeth Brad———
February 26 $168\frac{8}{9}$ John Tufts the ſone of Peter Tufts and Mercy Tufts Borne february the ^{26} $168\frac{8}{9}$
June 5 1689 Sarah Woodward the daughter of Daniell & Elizibeth Woodward Borne June 5 1689
october $\frac{1689}{14}$ Ebenezer Fox the ſone of Iſack & Abigaill Fox borne Octo^{b} 14. 1689
october 18 1683 dudley wade the ſone of Major Jonathan wade & debarah his wife was borne Octb 18 1683
Major Jonathan wade eſq late of Meadford in the county of midelſex in new england deceaſed 24 novemb 1689
September 11: 1689 John Hall the ſone of John and Jemina hall was borne
october 2: 1689 John Hall the sone of John Hall and Jemina Hall dyed
Aprill 16th 1699 Nathaniell Hall & Elizabeth Cutter were Joined in Mariage
Aprill 23: 1690 Sarah Blancher the daughter of George & Sarah Blancher was Borne
May 26 1690 John Tufts the ſone of John and mary Tufts was Borne
July 15 1690 Mary Willis the daughter of Stephen and Hannah Willis Borne
September 19: 1690 John Hall the sone of John and Jemina Hall was borne
February 6: $\frac{1690}{1}$ Jonathan Tufts the ſone of Jonathan & Rebeckah tufts was Borne
november 29: 1691 Ruth Bradshoe the daughter of John Bradshoe & mary his wife was borne

September 8: 1690 Sarah Bradshoe the daughter of John Bradshoe & mary his wife was borne

october 27th: 1690 Sarah Bradshoe the daughter of John Bradshoe & mary his wife dyed

August 22: 1691 Samuell Tufts ſone of Peter & mercy Tufts was borne

February 19: 169½ Jacob Chamberlain ſone of Jacob and Experiens Chamberlain was Borne

February 23: 169½ Nathaniell Tufts ſone of John & mary Tufts was Borne

June 24: 1692 William hall ſone of John & Jemina Hall was Borne

October 22: 1692 Samuell Tufts ſone of Peter Tufts & mercy his wife dyed

June 5: 1693 Amos Woodward ſone of Daniell & Elizibeth woodward borne

June 11 1693 mercy Blanchard daughter George Blanchard & Sarah his wife borne

november 5 1693 Stephen Hall ſone of Stephen hall & Grace his wife borne

november 10: 1693 Thomas ffox ſone of Iſack Fox and Abigaill his wife born

February 11 169¾ John Bradſhoe ſone of John Bradſhoe & mary his wife Borne

July 8: 1694 Caleb Brooks ſone of Ebenezer Brooks and Abigaill his wife Borne

October 16: 1694 Rebekah Tufts daughter of Jonathan Tufts & Rebekah his wife born

Sebtember 5th: 1694 John Willis ſone of John Willis and hester his wife born

October 10th 1694 John Willis ſone of John Willis and hester his wife dyed

October 4th 1694 William Hall ſone of John Hall and Jemina his wife dyed

November 1: 1694 William Hall ſone of John Hall and Jemina his wife Born

May 5th 1693 dorathe Tufts daughter of Peter Tufts & mercy his wife born

Sebtember 10th: 1693 dorathe Tufts daughter of Peter Tufts & mercy his wife dyed

January 10th: 169⅘ mercy Tufts daughter of Peter Tufts & mercy his wife born

January 3–1694 William Hall ſone of John Hall & Jemina his wife dyed

Sebtember 30: 1695 Andrew willis ſone of John Willis & heſter his wife born

December 23: 1695 ſuſana woodward daughter of Daniell Woodward & elizibeth his wife borne

January 17: $169\frac{5}{6}$ Samuell ffrances ſone of John ffrances & lydia his wife borne
July 29 1696 Caleb Brooks sen deceaſed
June 17 1696 Grace Hall daughter of Stephen Hall & grace his wife Born
Mary Eliott widow & Rellict of ffrances of Braintery deceaſed January 17: $169\frac{6}{7}$
December 18: 1696 Jonathan Bradshoe ſone of John Bradshoe & mary his wife born
$169\frac{6}{7}$ March 27th Dorathy Tufts daughter of peter Tufts & mercy his wife born
Aprill 29: 1697 Samuell Tufts ſone of Jonathan Tufts and Rebecah his wife born
november 2: 1697 Anna ffrances daughter of John frances & lydia his wife Born
1697 August 19 mercy tufts daughter of peter tufts & mercy his wife dyed
1697 november 29 dorathy daughter of peter tufts & mercy his wife dyed
Sebtember 2: 1696 hannah kidder & dorithy kider daughters of ephraim kidder & Rachell his wife was born
March 23: $169\frac{7}{8}$ Ebenezer Brooks ſone of ebenezer Brooks & abagaill his wife born
May 15: 1698 Andrew hall ſone of John Hall & Jemimah his wife born
october 27: 1698: Mercy Tufts daughter of Peter Tufts & mercy his wife born
november 13: 1698 Parcivell hall ſone of Parcivell Hall & Jane his wife born
december the 18th: 1698 Stephen Willis & Sufanna Wade were maried
Sergt Bradshoe his daughtr Sarah born March the 19, 1699 of her mother Mary Bradsho
The 6th of Octobr 1699, Abigael Brooks was born Daughter of Ebenr Brooks and Abigael his wife
the 13 of november 1699 Sufanna Willis was born: daughter of Stephen Willis & Sufana his wife
the 5th of January $1699\frac{9}{700}$ Joseph frances was born the ſone of John frances & lydia his wife
the second day of may 1700 Perſis Tufts the daughter of Jonathan Tufts & Rebecah his wife was Born
the 24 day of June 1700 John Brocus & Anna Tufts was maried
the 15 day of May 1700 Jane hall the daughter of pacifull hall & Jane his wife was born
the 9th day of october 1699 John Bradſtret & mercy wade were maried
the 22 day of november 1699 Jacob ſheppard & mercy Chickering maried

The 22 day of August 1700 Jacob fheppard fone of Jacob Sheppard & mercy his wife was Born
the 29 day of August 1700 Samuell Bradshoe fone of John Bradfhoe & Mary his wife Born
the 3 day of Sebtemb 1700 Samuell Brooks fone of Samuell Brooks & Sarah his wife Born
the eight of october 1700 Jemimah hall the daughter of John Hall & Jemimah his wife born

(*To be continued.*)

NOTES.

THE social side of the Historical Society is a prominent and attractive feature. Members gather on Saturday evenings, in committee meetings, or to discuss topics of mutual interest. The open wood fires, with an occasional introduction of the steaming *chafing dish*, give the rooms a cosey and homelike atmosphere.

THE Publication Committee asks the hearty coöperation of all the members of the Society in the distribution of the REGISTER. The price has been placed at such a moderate sum that a large number ought to be disposed of. Any item of interest pertaining to the work of the Society may be sent to any member of the committee.

THE Society has in its rooms a fine collection of army relics, the same being a *permanent loan* from Mr. M. E. Chandler, of Malden.

THE Publication Committee regrets that it will not be able to give to the readers of the REGISTER the admir-

able papers read before the Society by Rev. Henry C. DeLong, on the "Early Ministers of Medford," and by Rev. C. A. Staples, of Lexington, on the "Hancock Clark House," or the interesting address of Mr. Sylvester Baxter, of Malden, on the "Metropolitan Park System."

THE Society would gratefully receive as gifts or loans books or articles of historic interest and value.

Memberships in the Society are cordially invited.

THE Publication Committee makes its appreciative acknowledgments to Hon. Mellen Chamberlain for his paper on "The Importance of preserving Early History," written for this number of the REGISTER.

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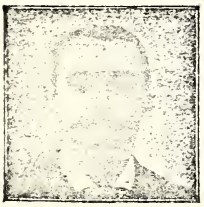

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Boston.

WILLIAM CUSHING WAIT,

President Medford Historical Society.

WILLIAM CUSHING WAIT,

President Medford Historical Society.

The Medford Historical Register.

VOL. I. APRIL, 1898. NO. 2.

THE MIDDLESEX CANAL.[1]

BY LORIN L. DAME, D.S.

THE curious traveller may still trace with little difficulty the line of the old Middlesex canal, with here and there a break, from the basin at Charlestown to its junction with the Merrimac at Middlesex Village. Like an accusing ghost, it never strays far from the Boston & Lowell railroad, to which it owes its untimely end. At Medford the Woburn sewer runs along one portion of its bed, the Mystic water-pipes another. The tow-path, at one point, marks the course of the defunct Mystic Valley railroad; at others it has been metamorphosed into sections of the highway; at others it survives for a while as a cow-path or woodland lane; at Wilmington the stone sides of a lock have become the lateral walls of a dwelling-house cellar.

Judging the canal by the pecuniary returns which it brought its projectors, it must be confessed a dismal failure; yet its inception was none the less a comprehensive, far-reaching scheme, which seemed to assure a future of great public usefulness and correspondingly ample profits. Inconsiderable as this work may appear compared with the modern achievements of engineering, it was, for the times, a gigantic undertaking, beset with difficulties scarcely conceivable to-day. Boston was a

[1] This sketch in its original form appeared in the "Bay State Monthly," November, 1884. As it now stands it was read before the Medford Historical Society in January, 1897. Authorities consulted: Complete records of the corporation, in the County Commissioners' office at Cambridge; "Historical Sketch of the Middlesex Canal," by Caleb Eddy, 1843; Amory's "Life of Governor Sullivan," 1859.

flourishing town of about twenty thousand inhabitants; Medford, Woburn, and Chelmsford were insignificant villages; Lowell was yet unborn; while the valley of the Merrimac, northward into New Hampshire, supported a sparse agricultural population. But the outlook was encouraging. It was a period of rapid growth and marked improvements. The subject of closer communication with the interior early became a vital question. Turnpikes, controlled by corporations, were the principal avenues over which country produce, lumber, fire-wood, and building-stone found their way to the little metropolis. The cost of entertainment at the various country inns, the frequent tolls, and the inevitable wear and tear of teaming enhanced very materially the price of all these articles. The Middlesex canal was the first step towards the solution of the problem of cheap transportation. The plan originated with the Hon. James Sullivan, who was for six years a judge of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts, attorney-general from 1790 to 1807, and governor in 1807 and 1808, dying while holding the latter office.

A brief glance at a map of the New England States will bring out in bold relief the full significance of Sullivan's scheme. It will be seen that the Merrimac river, after pursuing a southerly course as far as Middlesex Village, turns abruptly to the northeast. A canal from Charlestown mill-pond to this bend of the river, a distance of 27¼ miles, would open a continuous water-route of 80 miles to Concord, N.H. From this point, taking advantage of Lake Sunapee, a canal could easily be run in a northwesterly direction to the Connecticut at Windsor, Vt.; and thence, making use of intermediate streams, communication could be opened with the St. Lawrence. The speculative mind of Sullivan dwelt upon the pregnant results that must follow this articulation of Boston with New Hampshire, Vermont, and Canada. A vast internal commerce, beyond the influence and attraction of the great

market of New York, it was reasonable to assume, would thus be secured to Boston. He consulted his friend Colonel Baldwin, Sheriff of Middlesex, who had a natural taste for engineering, and they came to the conclusion that the plan was feasible. Should the undertaking succeed between Concord and Boston, the gradual increase in population and traffic would in time warrant the completion of the programme; even should communication never be established beyond Concord, the commercial advantages of opening to the market the undeveloped resources of upper New Hampshire would be a sufficient justification. Accordingly, James Sullivan, Loammi Baldwin, Jonathan Porter, Samuel Swan, Benjamin Hall, Willis Hall, Ebenezer Hall, Ebenezer Hall, Jr., and Andrew Hall petitioned the General Court for an act of incorporation. A charter was granted, bearing date of June 22, 1793, "incorporating James Sullivan, Esq., and others, by the name of the Proprietors of the Middlesex Canal," and on the same day was signed by His Excellency John Hancock, Governor of the Commonwealth. By this charter the proprietors were authorized to lay such assessments from time to time as might be required for the construction of the canal.

At their first meeting the proprietors intrusted the management of the corporation to a board of thirteen members, who were to choose a president and vice-president from their own number, the entire board subject to annual election. Boston capitalists subscribed freely, and Russell, Gore, Barrell, Craigie, and Brooks appear among the earliest directors. This board organized on the 11th of October by the choice of James Sullivan as president and Colonel Baldwin and John Brooks (afterwards Governor Brooks) as vice-presidents. The first step was to make the necessary surveys between the Charlestown basin and the Merrimac at Chelmsford; but the science of engineering was in its infancy in New England, and it was diffi-

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cult to find a competent person to undertake the task. At length Samuel Thompson, of Woburn, was engaged to make a preliminary survey; but the directors, not wholly satisfied with his report, afterwards secured the services of Samuel Weston, an eminent English engineer, then employed in Pennsylvania in the Potomac canals. With good instruments at his command, he did his work well and quickly. His report, made Aug. 2, 1794, was favorable, and it is interesting to compare his figures with those of Mr. Thompson. As calculated by the latter, the ascent from Medford bridge to the Concord river at Billerica was found to be 68½ ft.; the actual difference in level, as found by Weston, was 104 ft. By Thompson's survey there was a further ascent of 16½ ft. to the Merrimac, when, in fact, the water at Billerica bridge is almost 25 ft. above the Merrimac at Chelmsford.

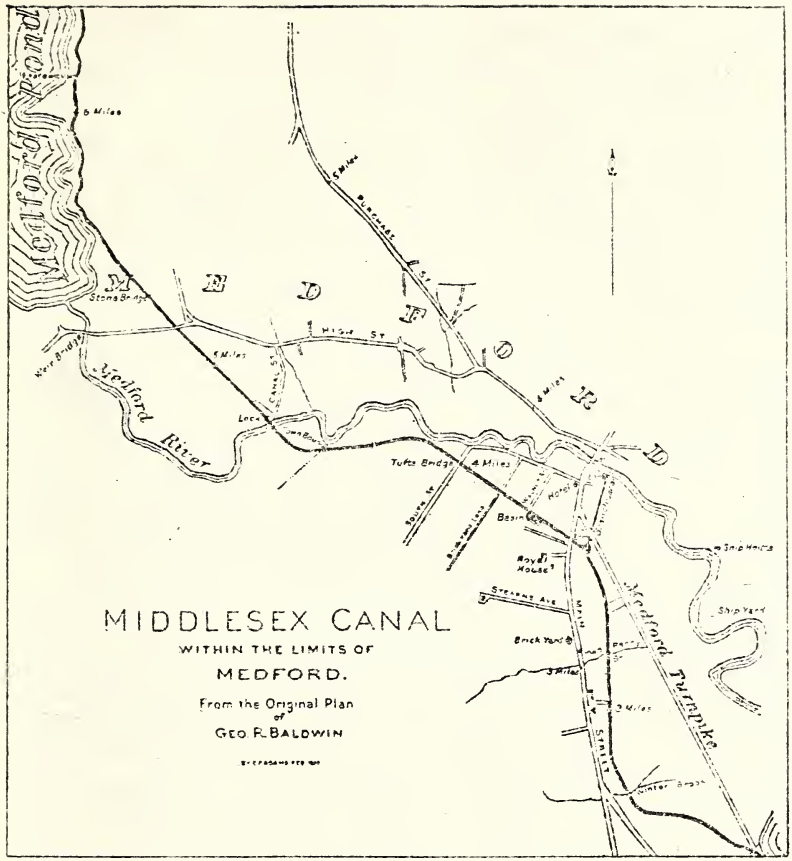
Colonel Baldwin, who superintended the construction of the canal, removed the first turf, Sept. 10, 1794. The progress was slow and attended with many embarrassments. The purchase of land from more than one hundred proprietors demanded skilful diplomacy. Most of the lands used for the canal were acquired by voluntary sale, and conveyed in fee simple to the corporation. Sixteen lots were taken under authority of the Court of Sessions; while for thirteen neither deed nor record could be found when the corporation came to an end. Some of the land was never paid for, as the owners refused to accept the sum awarded. The compensation ranged from about $150 an acre in Medford to $25 in Billerica. The numerous conveyances are all in Sullivan's handwriting.

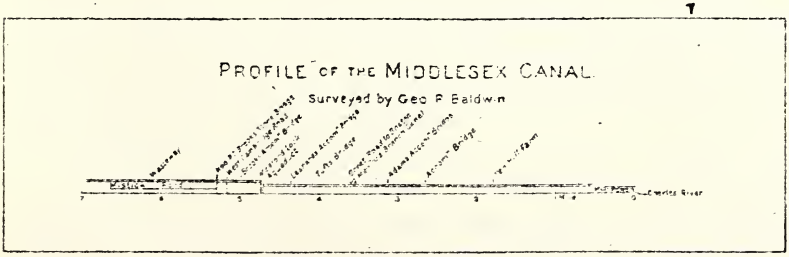
Labor was not easily procured, probably from the scarcity of laborers, as the wages paid, averaging $10 a month and board, which was $2 a week, were presumably as much as could be earned in manual labor elsewhere. "An order was sent to England for a levelling instrument made by S. & W. Jones, of London, and

this was the only instrument used for engineering purposes after the first survey by Weston." Two routes were considered; the rejected route was forty years later selected for the Lowell railroad. The canal, 30 ft. wide, 4 ft. deep, with twenty locks, seven aqueducts, and crossed by fifty bridges, was in 1802 sufficiently completed for the admission of water, and the following year was opened to public navigation from the Merrimac to the Charles. The cost up to this was but little more than the estimate, amounting to about $500,000, of which one-third was land damages.

The canal demands more than a cursory notice in the records of the Medford Historical Society. Of the nine petitioners for a charter, seven, including the chairman and clerk of the preliminary meetings, were citizens of Medford. In the first board of directors, three — John Brooks, Ebenezer Hall, and Jonathan Porter — were Medford men. Of the eight hundred shares into which the capital stock was divided, more than one-fifth of the entire issue was taken in Medford; and, though the stockholders never received an adequate return for their investment, the town was enriched by the development of a great shipbuilding industry along the banks of the Mystic.

Beginning at Charlestown mill-pond, with which it communicated by a tide-lock, the canal passed under Main street, across the Neck. Dipping under the Medford turnpike, it followed the edge of the marsh, along Mt. Benedict, to the base of Winter Hill, which it closely skirted on the northerly side, through the present Mystic Trotting Park, by the Royal House, to Main street, at which point it sent off a branch canal connecting by two locks with the Mystic. Passing under Main street, it ran along the line of Summer street, under South street, a little further on, in its later days, under a railroad bridge (the lateral walls of which are still visible in the embankment) to the Mystic, which it spanned by a wooden aqueduct of 100 feet,


Medford
Mystic River
Medford Turnpike
MIDDLESEX CANAL
WITHIN THE LIMITS OF
MEDFORD.
From the Original Plan
of
GEO R. BALDWIN


PROFILE OF THE MIDDLESEX CANAL
Surveyed by Geo R Baldwin

resting on stone piers which now support Boston-avenue bridge. Following nearly the line of Boston avenue, it kept along the Mystic ponds, passing through Winchester west of Wedge pond to Horn pond in Woburn. Traversing Woburn and Wilmington, it crossed the Shawsheen by an aqueduct of 137 feet, and struck the Concord, from which it received its water at Billerica mills. Entering the Concord by a stone guard-lock, it crossed, with a floating tow-path, and passed out on the northern side through another stone guard-lock, thence it descended 27 feet, in a course of 5¼ miles, through Chelmsford to the Merrimac, making its entire length 27¼ miles.

The proprietors made Charlestown bridge the eastern terminus for their boats, but ultimate communication was opened with the wharves and markets upon the harbor through Mill creek, over a section of which Blackstone street now extends.

As the enterprise had the confidence of the business community, money for prosecuting the work had been procured with comparative ease. Such representative men as Oliver Wendell, John Adams, of Quincy, Peter C. Brooks, Andrew Craigie, Ebenezer and Dudley Hall, James Sullivan, and John Hancock were stockholders. The stock had steadily advanced from $25 a share in the autumn of 1794 to $473 in 1803, the year the canal was opened, touching $500 in 1804. Then a decline set in, a few dollars at a time, till 1816, when its market value was $300 with few takers, although the canal was in successful operation, and in 1814 the obstructions in the Merrimac had been surmounted, so that canal boats, locking into the river at Chelmsford, and making use of various locks and short canals, had been poled up stream as far as Concord.

Firewood and lumber always formed a very considerable item in the business of the canal. The navy-yard at Charlestown and the ship-yards on the Mystic for many years relied upon the canal for the greater part

of the timber used in ship-building; and work was sometimes seriously retarded by low water in the Merrimac, which interfered with transportation. The supply of oak and pine about Lake Winnipiseogee, and along the Merrimac and its tributaries, was thought to be practically inexhaustible. In the opinion of Daniel Webster, the value of this timber had been increased $5,000,000 by the canal. Granite from Tyngsborough, and agricultural products from a great extent of fertile country, found their way along this channel to Boston; while the return boats supplied taverns and country stores with their annual stock of goods. The receipts from tolls, rents, etc., were steadily increasing, amounting

in 1812 to	$12,600
" 1813 "	16,800
" 1814 "	25,700
" 1815 "	29,200
" 1816 "	32,600

Yet valuable, useful, and productive as the canal had proved itself, it had lost the confidence of the public, and, with a few exceptions, of the proprietors themselves. The reason for this can easily be shown. The general depression of business on account of the embargo and the War of 1812 had its effect upon the canal. In the deaths of Governor Sullivan and Colonel Baldwin, in the same year 1808, the enterprise was deprived of the wise and energetic counsellors to whom it owed its existence.

The aqueducts and most of the locks, being built of wood, required large sums for annual repairs; the expenses arising from imperfections in the banks, and from the erection of toll-houses and public-houses for the accommodation of the boatmen, were considerable; but the heaviest expenses were incurred in opening the Merrimac for navigation. From Concord, N.H., to the head of the canal the river has a fall of 123 feet, necessitating various locks and canals. The Middlesex Canal Corporation contributed to the building of the

Wiccasee locks and canals $12,000; Union locks and canals, $49,932; Hookset canal, $6,750; Bow canal and locks, $14,115; making a sum total of $82,797 to be paid from the income of the Middlesex canal. The constant demand for money in excess of the incomes had proved demoralizing. Funds had been raised from time to time by lotteries. In the "Columbian Centinel and Massachusetts Federalist" of Aug. 15, 1804, appears an advertisement of the Amoskeag Canal Lottery, 6,000 tickets at $5, with an enumeration of prizes. The committee, consisting of Phillips Payson, Samuel Swan, Jr., and Loammi Baldwin, Jr., appealed to the public for support, assuring the subscribers that all who did not draw prizes would get the full value of their money in the reduced price of fuel.

In 1816 the Legislature of Massachusetts granted the proprietors of the canal, in consideration of its usefulness to the public, two townships of land in the district of Maine, near Moosehead lake. This State aid, however, proved of no immediate service, as purchasers could not be found for several years for property so remote. Appeals to capitalists, lotteries, and State aid proved insufficient; the main burden fell upon the stockholders.

In accordance with the provisions of the charter assessments had been levied, as occasion required, up to 1816, 99 in number, amounting to $670 per share; and the corporation was still staggering under a debt of $64,000. Of course, during all this time, no dividends could be declared.

Under these unpromising conditions a committee, consisting of Josiah Quincy, Joseph Hall, and Joseph Coolidge, Jr., was appointed to devise the appropriate remedy. "In the opinion of your committee," the report reads, "the real value of the property, at this moment, greatly exceeds the market value, and many years will not elapse before it will be considered among the best of all practicable monied investments. The

Directors contemplate no further extension of the canal.

"*The work is done*, both the original and subsidiary canals. . . . Let the actual incomes of the canal be as great as they may, so long as they are consumed in payments of debts and interest on loans, the aspect of the whole is that of embarrassment and mortgage. The present rates of income, if continued, and there is every rational prospect, not only of its continuance, but of its great and rapid increase, will enable the corporation — when relieved of its present liabilities — at once to commence a series of certain, regular, and satisfactory dividends." They accordingly recommended a final assessment of $80 per share, completely to extinguish all liabilities. This assessment, the one hundredth since the commencement, was levied in 1817, making a sum total of $600,000, extorted from the long-suffering stockholders. If to this sum the interest of the various assessments be added, computed to Feb. 1, 1819, the date of the first dividend, the actual cost of each share is found to have been $1,455.25.

The prosperity of the canal property now seemed fully assured. The first dividend, though only $15, was the promise of golden showers in the near future, and the stock once more took an upward flight. From 1819 to 1836 were the palmy days of the canal, unvexed with debts, and subject to very moderate expenses for annual repairs and management.

It is difficult to ascertain the whole number of boats employed at any one time. Many were owned and run by the proprietors of the canal; and many were constructed and run by private parties, who paid the regular tolls for whatever they transported. Boats belonging to the same parties were conspicuously numbered, like railway cars to-day. From "Regulations Relative to the Navigation of the Middlesex Canal," a pamphlet published in 1830, it appears that boats were required to be not less than 40 feet nor more than 75 feet in

length and not less than 9 feet nor more than 9½ feet in width. Two men — a driver and a steersman — usually made up the working force. The boats, however, that went up the Merrimac required three men, one to steer, and two to pole. The Lowell boats carried 20 tons of coal; 15 tons were sufficient freight for Concord. When the water in the Merrimac was low, not more than 6 or 7 tons could be taken up the river. About 1830 the boatmen received $15 per month.

Lumber was transported in rafts of about 75 feet long and 9 feet wide; and these rafts, not exceeding 10 in number, were often united in "bands." A band of 7 to 10 rafts required the services of five men, including the drivers. Boats were drawn by horses, and lumber by oxen; and "luggage boats" were required to make two and a half miles an hour, while "passage boats" attained a speed of four miles. Boats of the same class, and going the same way, were not allowed to pass each other, thus making "racing" impossible on the staid waters of the old canal. Whenever a boat approached a lock, the conductor sounded his horn to secure the prompt attention of the lock-tender; but due regard was paid to the religious sentiment of New England. Travelling in the canal being permitted on Sundays, "in consideration of the distance from home at which those persons using it generally are, it may be reasonably expected that they should not disturb those places of public worship near which they pass, nor occasion any noise to interrupt the tranquillity of the day. Therefore, it is established that no *Signal-Horn* shall be used or blown on Sundays."

The tariff varied greatly from year to year. In 1827 the rate from Lowell to Boston was $2.00 the gross ton; but many articles were carried on much lower terms.

On account of liability of damage to the banks of the canal, all navigation ceased at dark; hence, at every lock, or series of locks, a tavern was established. These were all owned by the corporation, and were

often let to the lock-tender, who eked out his income by the accommodation of boatmen and horses. The Bunker Hill Tavern, in Charlestown, situated so as to accommodate both county and canal travel, was leased, in 1830, for $350; in 1838 it let for $500. The Horn Pond House, at Woburn, in 1838, was leased for $700. In 1825 a two-story dwelling-house, 36 × 18, built at a cost of $1,400, for the accommodation of boatmen and raftsmen, at Charlestown, rented, with stable attached, for $140. In all these cases, the real estate was supposed to pay 10 per cent. Some of these canal taverns established a wide reputation for good cheer, and boatmen contrived to be overtaken by night in their vicinity. Sometimes 15 or 20 boats would be detained at one of these favorite resorts, and a jolly crowd fraternized in the primitive bar-room. The temperance sentiment had not yet taken a firm hold in New England. "Flip" was the high-toned beverage of those days; but "black-strap," a compound of rum and molasses, sold at 3 cents a glass, was the particular "vanity" of the boatmen. In the smaller taverns a barrel of Old Medford, surmounted by a pitcher of molasses, scorning the flimsy subterfuges of modern times, boldly invited its patrons to draw and mix at their own sweet will. "Plenty of drunkenness, Uncle Joe, in those days?" we queried of an ancient boatman, who was dilating upon the good old times. "Bless your heart, no!" was the answer. "Mr. Eddy didn't put up with no drunkards on the canal. They could drink all night, sir, and be steady as an eight-day clock in the morning."

When the feverish haste born of the locomotive and telegraph had not yet infected society, a trip over the canal in the passenger-packet, the "Governor Sullivan," must have been an enjoyable experience. Protected by iron rules from the dangers of collision, undaunted by squalls of wind, realizing that should the craft be capsized he had nothing to do but walk

ashore, the traveller speeding along at the leisurely pace of four miles per hour had ample time for observation and reflection. Seated, in summer, under a capacious awning, he traversed the valley of the Mystic, skirting the picturesque shores of Mystic pond. Instead of a foreground of blurred landscape, vanishing, ghostlike, ere its features could be fairly distinguished, soft bits of characteristic New England scenery, clear cut as cameos, lingered caressingly on his vision — green meadows, fields riotous with blossomed clover, fragrant orchards and quaint old farmhouses, with a background of low hills wooded to their summits.

Passing under bridges, over rivers, between high embankments and through deep cuttings, floated up hill by a series of locks, he marvelled at this triumph of engineering, and if he were a director pictured the manufactures that were to spring up along this great thoroughfare, swelling its revenues for all time.

The tow-path of the canal was a famous promenade. Upon Sunday afternoons especially, numerous pedestrians from the dusty city strolled along the canal for a breath of air and a glimpse of the open country, through the Royal estate in Medford, by the stone bridge on the Brooks estate, the most picturesque surviving relic of canal days, past the substantial, old-fashioned mansion house of Peter C. Brooks, as far, perhaps, as the Baldwin estate and the birthplace of Count Rumford, in Woburn. "I love that old tow-path," said Uncle Joe. "'Twas there I courted my wife; and every time the boat went by she came tripping out to walk a piece with me! Bless you, sir, the horses knew her step, and 'twa'n't so heavy, nuther!"

Meanwhile, under the direction of Caleb Eddy, who assumed the agency of the corporation in 1825, bringing great business ability and unquenchable zeal to this task, the perishable wooden locks were gradually

replaced with stone, a new stone dam was built at Billerica, and the service brought to a high state of efficiency. The new dam was the occasion of a law-suit brought by the proprietors of Sudbury meadows, claiming damages to the extent of $10,000 for flooding their meadows. The defendants secured the services of Samuel Hoar, Esq., Concord, assisted by the Hon. Daniel Webster, who accepted a retaining fee of $100 to "manage and argue the case in conjunction with Mr. Hoar. The cause was to have been tried November, 1833. Mr. Webster was called on by me and promised to examine the evidence and hold himself in readiness for the trial, but for some time before he was not to be found in Boston, at one time at New York, at another in Philadelphia, and so on from place to place, so that I am satisfied no dependence can be placed with certainty upon his assistance, and," plaintively concludes the agent, "our $100 has gone to profit and loss account."

On the other side was the Hon. Jeremiah Mason, assisted by Franklin Dexter, Esq. This case was decided the following year adversely to the plaintiffs.

With the accession of business brought on by the corporations at Lowell, the prospect for increased dividends in the future was extremely encouraging. The golden age of the canal appeared close at hand; but the fond hopes of the proprietors were once more destined to disappointment. Even the genius of James Sullivan had not foreseen the railway locomotive. In 1829 a petition was presented to the Legislature for the survey of a railroad from Boston to Lowell. The interests of the canal were seriously involved. A committee was promptly chosen to draw up for presentation to the General Court "a remonstrance of the Proprietors of Middlesex canal, against the grant of a charter to build a railroad from Boston to Lowell." This remonstrance, signed by William Sullivan, Joseph Coolidge, and George Hallet, bears date of Boston, Feb. 12, 1830, and conclusively shows how little the

business men of fifty years ago anticipated the enormous development of our resources consequent upon the application of steam to transportation :

"The remonstrants take pleasure in declaring that they join in the common sentiment of surprise and commendation, that any intelligence and enterprise should have raised so rapidly and so permanently such establishments as are seen at Lowell. The proprietors of these works have availed themselves of *the canal*, for their transportation of all articles except in the winter months, . . . and every effort has been made by this corporation to afford every facility, it was hoped and believed to the entire satisfaction of the Lowell proprietors. The average annual amount of tolls paid by these proprietors has been only about $4,000. It is believed no safer or cheaper mode of conveyance can ever be established, nor any so well adapted for carrying heavy and bulky articles. To establish therefore a *substitute* for the canal alongside of it, and in many places within a few rods of it, and to do that which the canal was made to do, seems a measure not called for by any exigency nor one which the Legislature can permit, without implicitly declaring that all investments of money in public enterprises must be subjected to the will of any applicants who think that they may benefit themselves without regard to older enterprises which have a claim to protection from public authority. With regard, then, to transportation of tonnage goods, the means exist for all but the winter months, as effectually as any that can be provided.

"There is a supposed source of revenue to a railroad *from carrying passengers*. As to this, the remonstrants venture no opinion except to say that passengers are now carried at all hours, as rapidly and safely as they are anywhere else in the world. . . . To this the remonstrants would add that the use of a railroad, *for passengers* only, has been tested by experience, nowhere hitherto ; and that it remains to be known

whether this is a mode that will command general confidence and approbation, and that, therefore, no facts are now before the public, which furnish the conclusion that the grant of a railroad is a public exigency even for such a purpose. The remonstrants would also add, that so far as they know and believe, there *never can be a sufficient inducement to extend a railroad from Lowell, westwardly and north-westwardly, to the Connecticut, so as to make it the great avenue to and from the interior, but that its termination must be at Lowell*" (italics our own), "and, consequently, that it is to be a substitute for the modes of transportation now in use between that place and Boston, *and cannot deserve patronage from the supposition that it is to be more extensively useful.* . . .

"The remonstrants, therefore, respectfully submit: First, that there be no such exigency as will warrant the granting of the prayer for a railroad to and from Lowell. Secondly, that, if that prayer be granted, provision should be made as a condition for granting it, that the remonstrants shall be indemnified for the losses which will be thereby occasioned to them under pretext of the public weal." This may seem the wilful blindness of self-interest; but the utterances of the press and the legislative debates of the period are similar in tone. In relation to another railroad, the "Boston Transcript" of Sept. 1, 1830, remarks:

"It is not astonishing that so much reluctance exists against plunging into doubtful speculations. . . . The public itself is divided as to the practicability of the Rail Road. If they expect the assistance of capitalists, they must stand ready to guarantee the *per centum per annum;* without this, all hopes of Rail Roads are visionary and chimerical."

In a report of legislative proceedings published in the "Boston Courier" of Jan. 25, 1830, Mr. Coggswell, of Ipswich, remarked:

"Railways, Mr. Speaker, may do well enough in old

countries, but will never be the thing for so young a country as this. When you can make the rivers run back, it will be time enough to make a railway."

Notwithstanding the pathetic remonstrances and strange vaticinations of the canal proprietors, the Legislature incorporated the road and refused compensation to the canal. Even while the railroad was in process of construction, the canal directors do not seem to have realized the full gravity of the situation. They continued the policy of replacing wood with stone, and made every effort to perfect the service in all its details; as late as 1836 the agent recommended improvements. The amount of tonnage continued to increase; the very sleepers used in the construction of the railway were boated, it is said, to points convenient for the workmen. The strange spectacle was thus presented, perhaps for the first time, of a corporation assisting in the preparations for its own obsequies.

In 1832 the proprietors declared a dividend of $22 per share; from 1834 to 1837, inclusive, a yearly dividend of $30.

The disastrous competition of the Lowell railroad was now beginning to be felt. In 1835 the Lowell goods conveyed by canal paid tonnage dues of $11,975.51; in 1836 the income from this source had dwindled to $6,195.77. The canal dividends had been kept up to their highest mark by the sale of its townships in Maine and other real estate; but now they began to drop. The year the Lowell road went into full operation, the receipts of the canal were reduced one-third; and in 1840 when the Nashua & Lowell road went into full operation, they were reduced another third. The board of directors waged a plucky warfare with the railroads, reducing the tariff on all articles, and almost abolishing it in some, till the expenditures of the canal outran its income; but steam came out triumphant. Even sanguine Caleb Eddy became satisfied that longer competition was vain, and set himself to the difficult task of saving fragments from the inevitable wreck.

At this time (1843) Boston numbered about 100,000 inhabitants, and was dependent for water upon cisterns and wells. The supply in the wells had been steadily diminishing for years, and what remained was necessarily subject to contamination from numberless sources. "One specimen which I analyzed," said Dr. Jackson, "which gave three per cent. of animal and vegetable putrescent matter, was publicly sold as a mineral water; it was believed that water having such a remarkable fetid odor and nauseous taste could be no other than that of a sulphur spring; but its medicinal powers vanished with the discovery that the spring arose from a neighboring drain."

Here was a golden opportunity. Eddy proposed to abandon the canal as a means of transportation, and convert it into an aqueduct for supplying the city of Boston with wholesome water. The sections between the Merrimac and Concord at one extremity and Charlestown mill-pond and Woburn at the other were to be wholly discontinued. Flowing along the open channel of the canal from the Concord river to Horn-pond locks in Woburn, from thence it was to be conducted in iron pipes to a reservoir upon Mt. Benedict in Charlestown, a hill eighty feet above the sea level.

The good quality of the Concord-river water was vouched for by the "analysis of four able and practical chemists, Dr. Charles T. Jackson, of Boston; Prof. John W. Webster, of Cambridge University; S. L. Dana, of Lowell, and A. A. Hayes, Esq., of the chemical works at Roxbury." The various legal questions involved were submitted to the Hon. Jeremiah Mason, who gave an opinion, dated Dec. 21, 1842, favorable to the project. The form for an act of incorporation was drawn up, and a pamphlet was published in 1843 by Caleb Eddy, entitled an "Historical Sketch of the Middlesex Canal, with Remarks for the Consideration of the Proprietors," setting forth the new scheme in glowing colors.

But despite the feasibility of the plan proposed, and the energy with which it was pushed, the agitation came to naught; and Eddy, despairing of the future, resigned his position as agent in 1845. Among the directors during these later years were Ebenezer Chadwick, William Appleton, William Sturgis, Charles F. Adams, A. A. Lawrence, and Abbott Lawrence; but no business ability could long avert the catastrophe. Stock fell to $150, and finally the canal was discontinued, according to Amory's Life of Sullivan in 1846. It would seem, however, that a revival of business was deemed within the range of possibilities, for in conveyances made in 1852 the company reserved the right to use the land "for canalling purposes," and went through the form of electing an agent and collector as late as 1854.

"Its vocation gone, and valueless for any after service," says Amory, "the canal property was sold for $130,000. After the final dividends little more than the original assessments had been returned to the stockholders." Oct. 3, 1869, the Supreme Court issued a decree, declaring that the proprietors had "forfeited all their franchises and privileges by reason of nonfeasance, non-user, misfeasance and neglect." Thus was the corporation forever extinguished.

At one of the public social functions of the D.A.R. a member of the Historical Society was conversing with the dignified and gracious daughter of Col. Asa Law. One of the financial managers of the evening approached and remarked to the gentleman, "I see that you are busy." "Yes," said the historical member, "I am looking after the *Law*, and you can take care of the *profits*" (prophets).

RESPONSIVE.

HAVE you swayed with the swing of the surging sea
As it kissed the rocks at your feet;
And caught the songs of the long ago
In the voices from the deep;
While melodies of a slumbering past
O'er dreamy senses creep?

Have you silently stood under star-lit skies
In the shadows of forest trees,
And heard the note of the whip-poor-will
Borne on the murmuring breeze;
While rhythmic sounds from choirs unseen
Enraptured fancies please?

Have you learned the sweet lesson of loyal love
Which hallows the heart like a dream,
And feels the deep throb of an answering sense
When memory pictures gleam
Like sails on a stretch of shimmering sea,
Where silvery moonbeams stream?

If the sea, and the stars, and songs of the night
Waken melodies hid within;
Be the songs without words, chords without notes,
Yet with tears our eyes shall be dim;
'Tis the voiceless thrill of *responsive* hearts
To Nature's antiphonal hymn.

C. H. L.

ON THE ROCKS.
MAGNOLIA.

SARAH BRADLEE FULTON.

Dorchester, 1740. Medford, 1835.

By Helen T. Wild, *Secretary.*[1]

THE names of the men who fought in the War of the American Revolution are carefully preserved in the archives of the State, but the women who through all those sad years endured hardship and loss, and who toiled at the spinning-wheel and in the hospitals for their country's cause, have long ago been forgotten.

Only here and there a woman's name is found on the honor roll of Revolutionary days.

Among the Medford women whom history has remembered, Sarah Bradlee Fulton has a prominent place. We have been proud to name our chapter for her, honoring with her all the unknown loyal women who worked and prayed in this dear old town of ours, for the cause of liberty.

Mrs. Fulton was a member of the Bradlee family of Dorchester and Boston. In 1762 she married John Fulton, and ten years later they came to Medford with their little sons and daughters, and made their home on the east side of Main street about one hundred and fifty feet south of the bridge, on the south side of what is now Tufts place. Her brother, Nathaniel Bradlee, lived in Boston at the corner of Tremont and Hollis streets. The old house is still standing and occupied by his descendants.

His carpenter's shop, and his kitchen on Saturday nights when friends and neighbors gathered to enjoy his codfish suppers, were meeting-places for Boston's most devoted patriots. From this shop a detachment of Mohawks who "turned Boston Harbor into a tea-pot" went forth to their work of destruction. In the

[1] By permission of the "American Monthly," Washington, D.C.

kitchen Mrs. Bradlee and Mrs. Fulton disguised the master of the house and several of his comrades, and later heated water in the great copper boiler and provided all that was needful to transform these Indians into respectable Bostonians. Nathaniel Bradlee's principles were well known, and a spy, hoping to find some proof against him, peered in at the kitchen window, but saw these two women moving about so quietly and naturally that he passed on, little dreaming what was really in progress there.

A year and a half later Sarah Fulton heard the alarm of Paul Revere as "he crossed the bridge into Medford town," and a few days after the place became the headquarters of General Stark's New Hampshire regiment.

Then came the battle of Bunker Hill. All day the people of Medford watched the battle with anxious hearts; many a son and brother were there — dying, maybe, just out of their reach. At sunset the wounded were brought into town, and the large open space by Wade's Tavern between the bridge and South street was turned into a field hospital. Surgeons were few, but the women did their best as nurses. Among them, the steady nerves of Sarah Fulton made her a leader. One poor fellow had a bullet in his cheek, and she removed it; she almost forgot the circumstance until, years after, he came to thank her for her service.

During the siege of Boston detachments of British soldiers often came across the river under protection of their ships, searching for fuel in Medford.

One day a load of wood intended for the troops at Cambridge was expected to come through town, and one of these bands of soldiers was there before it. Sarah Fulton, knowing that the wood would be lost unless something was done, and hoping that private property would be respected, sent her husband to meet the team, buy the load, and bring it home. He carried out the first part of the programme, but on the way to the house he met the soldiers, who seized the wood.

When his wife heard the story she flung on a shawl and went in pursuit. Overtaking the party, she took the oxen by the horns and turned them round. The men threatened to shoot her, but she shouted defiantly as she started her team, "Shoot away!" Astonishment, admiration, and amusement were too much for the regulars, and they unconditionally surrendered.

Soon after Major Brooks, later our honored Governor, was given despatches by General Washington which must be delivered inside the enemy's lines. Late one night he came to John Fulton, knowing his patriotism and his intimate knowledge of Boston, and asked him to undertake the trust. He was not able to go, but his wife volunteered. Her offer was accepted.

A long, lonely, and dangerous walk it was to the water-side in Charlestown, but she reached there in safety, and finding a boat rowed across the river. Cautiously making her way to the place she sought, she delivered her despatches and returned as she had come. When the first streak of dawn appeared, she stood safe on her own door-stone.

In recognition of her services General Washington visited her. It is said that according to the fashion of the day John Fulton, on this occasion, brewed a potation whose chief ingredient was the far-famed product of the town. The little silver-mounted ladle was dipped in the steaming concoction, and the first glass from Mrs. Fulton's new punch-bowl was sipped by his Excellency. This was the proudest day of Sarah Fulton's life. The chair in which he sat and the punch-bowl and ladle were always sacred, and are still treasured by her descendants.

Years after General Lafayette was her guest, and we can safely say he was seated in General Washington's chair, served with punch from that same punch-bowl, and entertained with the story of that memorable visit.

Sarah Fulton was never afraid of man or beast; as she once told her little grandson, she "never turned her

back on anything." Her strength of mind was matched by her strength of body. After the Revolution she made her home on the old road to Stoneham, which at the first town-meeting after her death was named Fulton street in her honor. More than a mile from the square, the cellar of the house can still be seen, and many Medford people remember the building itself.

In spite of the long distance Sarah Fulton, even in extreme old age, was in the habit of walking to and from the Unitarian Church every Sunday. Those who knew her could scarcely comprehend that she had passed four-score years and ten.

Her humble home was always hospitably open, especially to the children of her brothers, who, if they could leave the luxury of their own homes and come to Medford for a visit, their happiness was complete.

She saw grandchildren and great-grandchildren grow up around her, and in the atmosphere of their love and reverence she spent her last days.

One night in November, 1835, a month before her ninety-fifth birthday, she lay down to sleep, and in the morning her daughters found her lying with a peaceful smile on her face — dead.

They laid her in the old Salem-street cemetery, and there she sleeps among her old friends and neighbors.

Patriotism, courage, and righteousness were her possessions, and may we, the Sarah Bradlee Fulton Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, receive a daughter's portion.

THE initial number of the REGISTER has received much commendation from friends at home and abroad. The Publication Committee respectfully suggests that a copy sent to any former residents of Medford will make a pleasant reminder of friendship, and will also help the Society in its work of publishing.

WILLIAM CUSHING WAIT.

MR. WILLIAM CUSHING WAIT, whose portrait appears in this number of the REGISTER, is the well-known and efficient President of the Medford Historical Society. He is well equipped in personal qualities, and by fortunate family lineage, for such a position.

Descended from Capt. John Wayte, of Malden, 1638.

Nathan Wait, born in Malden, April 6, 1763, married Sarah Lloyd Fulton, daughter of John and *Sarah Bradlee Fulton*, July 26, 1785. Among his children was Nathan W., father of Elijah S., father of William Cushing. The great-great-grandson of *Sarah Bradlee Fulton* would seem to be a most fitting selection for an office representing historical and patriotic research.

The subject of our sketch was born in Charlestown, Dec. 18, 1860, the eldest child of Elijah S. and Eliza Ann (Hadley) Wait. He came to Medford in 1870, and was a pupil in the Brooks and High Schools. Graduated at Harvard College, 1882, *Summa cum laude* and the highest honors in history, and a member of the Phi Beta Kappa. Graduated at Harvard Law School in 1885 with degrees of LL.B. and A.M. Was a member of Class-day Committee, 1882, member of Class Committee, 1882, secretary of Law School Class, 1885, and third president of Harvard Union. Member of K. N. Everett Athenæum, O. K., Hasty Pudding and Harvard Finance Club college societies. Was admitted to the Suffolk Bar, July 25, 1885, Circuit Court of United States, District of Massachusetts, May 15, 1888, and Circuit Court of Appeals, 1891. First practised law in office of Nathan Matthews, Jr., ex-mayor of Boston. Opened his own office in 1886. In 1890 associated himself with Samuel J. Elder, as Elder & Wait, and in 1893, with Edmund A. Whitman, as Elder, Wait, & Whitman.

Mr. Wait has been the candidate of his party three times for representative of his city to the General Court, and the nominee of the Gold Democrats of his district for the Senate, but while in every instance he received a flattering personal following, the Republican vote was too powerful to be overthrown.

He was a member of the committee which framed the City Charter for Medford, and served as Alderman in 1893.

He has served on the Sinking Fund Commission since 1892, and on the School Committee since 1894. Locally, he belongs to the Medford Historical Society, Comedy Club, Unitarian Club, Medford Club, Good Government Club, City Council Club, High School Alumni, No-license League, Royal Arcanum, Lawrence Light Guard, and is a Trustee of the Ministerial Fund of the First Parish.

He also holds memberships in the New England Free Trade League, Massachusetts Reform Club (Executive Committee), Reform Club, New York, Colonial Society of Massachusetts, Twentieth Century Club, Appalachian Mountain Club, Suffolk Bar Association, and Young Men's Democratic Club of Massachusetts. He is the author of numerous historical sketches of towns and cities in the United States census of 1880, of law articles in American and English Encyclopedia of Law, and is a frequent contributor to the local press.

His interest in the formidable array of organizations enumerated is an active one, and their several demands, coupled with the extensive law business of his firm, occupy his time fully.

Mr. Wait is a ready and pleasing speaker, a companionable friend, a loyal advocate of every movement bearing upon the best interests of our city.

He was married Jan. 1, 1889, to Miss Edith Foote Wright, and has no other family.

MEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

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For Year ending March, 1899.

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LITERAL COPY

OF

BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES IN MEDFORD FROM EARLIEST RECORDS.

COMPILED BY MISS ELLA S. HINCKLEY.

NOTE. — In No. 1 of the REGISTER, page 26, the date of the marriage of Nathaniel Hall and Elizabeth Cutter should have been "Aprill 16th. 1690."

March 1 : 1682 Thomas Willis his daughter mary was Borne

Simon Tufts sone of peter Tufts & mercy his wife was Born January 31 : $\frac{1699}{700}$

January 3 $\frac{1700}{701}$ william pattin of Cambridge & abigaill willis of Medford maried.

Sufana willis daughter to Stephen Willis & Sufanna his wife dyed ye 8th day of november 1700

December 27 1700 hester hall daughter of ſtephen hall & Grace his wife was Born

15th aprill 1701 : hannah Brooks Daughter of Ebenezer Brooks and abigall Brooks was borne the day and yeare aforesd.

Natll Peirce and lidya ffrancis marred June the 2d : 1701

Dudley Bradſtreet Son of John Bradſtreet And mercy his wife Borne octobr the 26th : 1701 :

Ebenezer ffrancis Son of John ffrancis and Lidyer his wife borne the 30th of octobr 1701

Mr John Hall Senr. dyed the 18th of october 1701
Deborath Willis Daughter of Stephen Willis and Sufanna his wife was borne the 27th of of June 1701
Ebenezer ffrancis Son of John ffrancis and Lydia his wife dyed march 23d: 1702
Hannah Peirce daughter of Natll: peirce and lydia his wife born the 27th aprill 1702
Sarah Brooks daughter of Samll: Brooks and Sarah his wife borne aprill 17th: 1702
Mathew Grover Son of Mathew and Neomi grover Borne July the 9th 1702:
Sarah Tufts daughter of Peter Tufts and mercy his wife borne may the 13: 1702
Sarah Whitmore daughter of Francis Whitmore and Anna his wife born May the 4: 1701
Samuell ffroft and Ruth Blanchard marred Septembr the 30th 1702
Jonathan Hall and Lydia Cutter marred fbr the 11th: 1702:
Benjamin Peirce and Sarah Hall marred December the 2d 1702:
Thō Hall and Hannah Cutter marred December the 22: 1702
Willis. Son of Stephen Willis junr. and Sufanna Willis his wife borne august the 13th: 1702:
Elliott Willis dyed ye 21 of January 1705
Joseph Hall Son of John Hall and Jemimah his wife borne novembr. the 30th: 1702
Susanna Bradfho daughter of Ensigne Jno. Bradsho and Mary Bradsho his wife borne Decembr. the 23d. 1702
Hannah Whitmore daughter of Francis Whitmore and anna his wife born the 22: Janu: 1702 and died the 25th: of Sd January
Peter Seccomb and Hannah Willis were marred the 25: of February 1702
Thomas Hall Son of Thō and Hannah Hall borne the 5th of october 1703
Thomas Willis and Susanna Hall marred the 26 of January $1703\frac{3}{4}$
Stephen Hall Son of John Hall and jemimah hall borne Jan the 19 $1703\frac{3}{4}$
Mary Brooks Daughter of mr. Ebenezer Brooks and Abigal his wife borne January the 19: 1703/4:
hester Willis Daughter of John willis and hester his wife borne Feb: ye. 16: 1702/3
Ebenezer Francis Son of John Francis and Lidya his wife dyed March ye. 22: 1703/4:
Lydia Francis daughter of John and Lydia Francis born aprill the 20: 1703
Ann Bradftreet daughter of John Bradftreet and Mercy his wife borne July ye. 7th 1704
Joseph Tuft Son of Jonathan Tuft and Rebecka Tuft his wife borne June the 29: th 1704
Thomas Gardiner and Mary Willis marred ye 20 of June 1704

Abigale Bradshow Daughter of Ensigne John Bradshaw and Mary his wife borne Aprill y^e. 29: 1704

Phillip Bizdue and Ann Soloman, marred octob^r. the 17: 1704

Francis Peirce Son of nat:^ll Peirce and Lydia Peirce born Sept^r. y^e 24: 1704

Mary Brooks Daughter of Eben^r. Brooks and Abigale his wife, died Septemb^r. y^e. 3^d, 1704

Dorothy Tuft Daughter of cap^t Peter Tuft and M^rs Mercy his wife borne: Decem: y^e 14 1704

Elizabeth Wier Daughter to Eliez^r Wier and Katherine wier born July y^e 11th 16096.

Susana Wier daughter of s^d Eliez^r. and Katherine wier born 8 May: 1699: and Eliez their Son born 16: May 1701: and Prudence wier there daughter borne May y^e. 18: 1703:

Eliza: Hall daughter ^to born M^r. John hall and Jemima his wife borne June the 10th: 1696

Elizabeth Hall daughter of Nat:^ll Hall and Eliz: his wife borne the 9th Jan: 1690

Nathan^ll: Hall Son of Nat:^ll hall and Eliz: his wife borne the 25th octob^r: 1694

Susanna Hall Daughter to Nat:^ll Hall and Eliz, his wife borne August the 30th 1696

Sarah Hall daughter of Nat:^ll Hall and Eliza: his wife borne the 8th of Septemb^r 1698

Tabitha Hall Daughter to Nat^ll Hall and Eliza: Hall his wife borne the 9th May 1699

William Hall Son of Nathan^ll. Hall and Eliz: his wife borne the 9th feb: 1704/5

Josiah hall Son of Stephen Hall sen^r. and Grace his wife borne may the 12: 1705

Mercy wade Daughter to Jonathan wade and Mary wade his wife borne August the 29: 1702

Jonathan wade Son of Jona^n and Mary his wife borne aprill y^e 8th: 1704

Willis Seccomb Son of Peter and Hannah Seccomb, Born aprill the 30th 1704

[So far I have given in ac^t. of births to y^e Govern^t

Lydia Hall Daughter of Jonathan Hall and Lydia his wife born aprill 27: 1705

Thomas Willis Son of John and hEster willis borne march the 4th. 1704/5

Phillip Rufsell and Sarah Brooks marred october y^e 18th 1705

Thomas Brooks Son of m^r Ebenezer Brooks and Abigale his wife Borne aprill y^e 18: 1705

John Francis and Eliz Frost marred Decemb^r the 13: 1705:

Hannah Bradfho, Daughter of Ensign John Bradsho and mary his wife, borne the 31st of January 1705/6

Mr Sarah Purchafe Dyed January the 20th. 1705.6.
Josiah Nutting Son of Ebenezer Nutting And Lydia Nutting his wife born The 28 day of February 1705/6
mr Jonathan Tuft Son[John A] of mrs Rebeccah: — his wife Died July 7th: 1706
Lucy Bradstreet Daughter of John and Mercy Bradstreet borne may the 30th: 1706
Abigale cleaveland, Daughter, of Aaron Cleaveland, and Abigale his wife borne may the 10th. 1706:
Rebecca Brook Daughter of Mr. Ebenezer Brooks and Abigale his wife borne July 24: 1706
Samuell wade and Lydia Newhall Married octobr. the 17th. 1706
Jonathan Willis, and Dorothey Wade Married October 17th 1706.
Catharine wier Daughter of Eliezer wier and Katharine his wife, borne, march: 16: 1706
Nathan wade, Son of Johnathen wade and mary his wife borne 22: February 1705/6
Martha Hall daughter of John Hall and Jemima his wife, borne august 20th: 1706
Josiah Hall Son of Stephen Hall and Grace his wife, dyed may the 20th 1706.
Lydia Tufts Daughter of Capt. Peter Tuft, and mercy his wife, borne 30th Janu 1708/7
Lydia Peirce Daughter, of Nathanll Peirce and Lydia his wife born: February 24th 1708/7
Edward Hall son of Thomas hall and Abigaile his wife, borne, Aprill the 11h: 1707
Anna Whitmore daughter of Francis whitmore and anna his wife borne may 4th: 1707
James Paterson Son of Andrew and Elizabeth Paterson Borne October ye 5th 1707
Major: Nathaniel Wade died November the 28th: 1707:
Elizabeth Farwell, daughter of Isaac Farwell and Elizabeth his wife borne the 1st of june 1707.
Mary Whitmore daughter of John Whitmore and mary his wife borne July 17-1707
John Secomb Sone of peter Secomb and Hannah his wife born ye 3d of July 1706
Abigaill Tufts daughter of Jonathan tufts and Rebeka his wife born February ye 7th. 1707
John Secomb fone of peter fecomb and hannah his wife dyed may 27: 1707
Ebenezer Francis Sone of John Francis and lydya his wife born march 25 1707/8
Abigall Hall daughter of thomas hall and abigall his wife born october 24 1708
John Secomb fone of peter fecomb & hannah his wife Born Aprill 25th 1708

Stephen Bradthoe ſone of John Bradſhoe & mary his wife born november 16th 1707
March 10. 1709: Hannah Brooks wife of caleb brooks deceſed.
Samll. Tufts Sun of capt Petter Tufts and mercy his wife borne the 26 of September 1709:
The above Sd Samll Tufts died the 3 day of october next folowinge in ye year 1709
Simon Bradshow Sun of Enſn John Bradshow and mary his wife borne the 3 day of october 1709
Eliott Whitmore Sone of Frances whitmore & Anna his wife born 13 of march 1709 & dyed ye 16 of said month
Mary dill daughter of Thomas dill and mary his wife borne the 25 of october 1706
Thomas dill Sun of thomas dill and mary his wife borne the nintenth of December 1708
patiens Willis daughter of Stephen Willis & Suſana his wife born ye 26 of December 1708
Benjamin Peirce Sun of Benjamin Peirce and Sarah his wife borne the fourth day of aprill 1707
Abigaill Peirce daughter of Nathanll Peirce and Lidia his wife borne the 5 of February $_{1709}^{10}$
John Nuttinge Sun of ebenezer nuttinge and Lidia his wife borne the 23 of aprill 1709
Samuell Brooks Sun of ebenezer brooks and abigaill his wife borne the 8 day of febury $_{1709}^{10}$
John Muzzey & Elizth Bradshaw were married July ye 12. 1709 by ye Revd mr Benjn Woodbridge
Sarah Peirce daughter of Icabod peirce and Sarah his wife borne the 14 July 1709
Hannah Letherbe daughter of Stephen Letherbe and margett his wife, borne the 14 of may 1707
Margett Letherbe daughter of Stephen Letherbe and margett his wife borne the 22 Februy 1709
Sarah Peirce daughter of Benjamin Peirce and Sarah his wife borne the 11 day of March 1710
mary willis daughter of Stephen Willis & Suſana his wife was Born on ye 6 day of Aprill 1710
mary farnell daughter of Iſaac farnell and Elizabeth his wife borne ye 15 day of november 1709:
Thomas Willis ſone of william willis & Rebekah his wife borne ye 30th day of Aprill — & dyed ye 4th of Decemb er —
Suſana Whitmore daughter of John Whitmore & mary his wife born the 25th day of november 1708
John farewell ſone of Iſack farewell and elizabeth his wife born ye 23 day of June 1711
Hellinor Peirce daughter of benjaman peirce & farah his wife borne ye 13 day of February 1711

(*To be continued.*)

NOTES.

The membership list of the Historical Society is steadily growing. There are three Life Members: Hon. E. Boynton, Rosewell B. Lawrence, and Walter C. Wright. Additional names will be welcomed.

The handsome marble clock in the Society rooms was the gift of Sarah Bradlee Fulton Chapter, D.A.R., presented to the Society as a surprise, at the Daughters' public observance of Washington's Birthday.

At one of the Saturday evening "chats," some one contributed a jug of new cider. Said Mr. D., "We know we are not Hindoos, but it remains to be seen whether we are devotees of the *jug or not*" (Juggernaut).

The Mystic Camera Club has leased the large room in the annex of the Historical House. This is a *positive* fact, although the Club has many *negatives*.

An interesting informal talk was given by Mr. Benjamin P. Hollis on Saturday evening, Feb. 19. His subject was "The Seals of the United States, and the Several States." Many choice bits of coloring were shown. After the talk the combination most popular was the *olive* blended with *cracker* white and *cheese* yellow.

THE paper on Sarah Bradlee Fulton was first read by Miss Wild before the local chapter of the D.A.R. Later it was published in the "American Monthly," Washington, by whose permission it appears in the REGISTER.

THE Annual Meeting of the Historical Society was held in its rooms, March 21. Reports of officers and committees were presented, and officers for the ensuing year elected. The list will be found elsewhere. Facts and figures showed the Society to be in a flourishing and progressive condition. During the year past the following papers and addresses have been given before the members:

April 14. — "The Early Physicians of Medford." Dr. Charles M. Green.

May 12. — "Medford in the First Half of the Present Century." Hon. T. S. Harlow.

October 18. — "Medford's Interest in the Metropolitan Park System." Mr. Sylvester Baxter, of Malden.

November 15. — "The Hancock-Clark House, of Lexington." Rev. Carlton A. Staples, of Lexington.

December 20. — "Maps of Medford at Different Periods." Mr. William Cushing Wait.

January 17. — "Roads and Bridges of Old Medford." Mr. John H. Hooper.

February 21. — "Governor Cradock's Plantation." Mr. Walter H. Cushing. *To be followed.*

April 18. — "Medford in the War of the Revolution." Miss Helen T. Wild.

May 16. — "The Life and Work of Mrs. Lydia Maria (Francis) Child." Mrs. Richard P. Hallowell.

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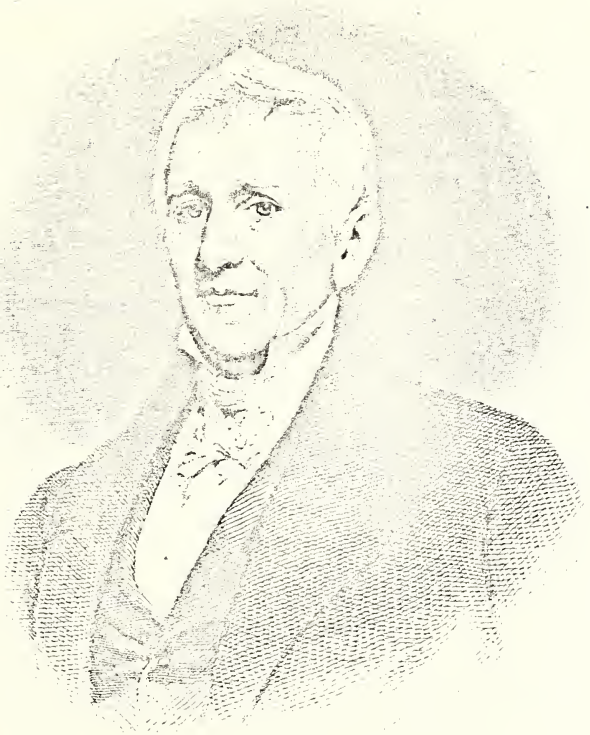

THATCHER MAGOUN,

The Pioneer Shipbuilder of Medford.

The Medford Historical Register.

VOL. I. JULY, 1898. No. 3.

SHIP-BUILDING IN MEDFORD.

BY JAMES A. HERVEY.[1]

ONE who is looking up any subject connected with the settlement and early history of Medford will find himself the victim of constant disappointment. The first colonists were occupied rather with making history than writing it, and they tell us very little of their doings. The records of our own town, unfortunately, go back no farther than 1673, for by some fatality the first twenty or thirty pages of the manuscript are missing. I do not know through whose direct instrumentality, or through whose negligence, this calamity fell upon us, but it seems to me if we only knew his birthday, that day might well be set apart by this society as a day of fasting and humiliation. He committed an unpardonable sin ; he shortened the historical life of this municipality. I question, however, whether the missing pages would carry us back to the beginning. The settlers were too busy then to be thinking much about public records. Be that as it may, for all information touching the early history of Medford we must have recourse to contemporaneous records, to the writings of Winthrop, Dudley, Wood, Hutchinson, and others, and to the registries of deeds and probate ; and some light is thrown upon the history of our town by the Massachusetts Colony Records and the collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society. All these scanty and scattered sources of information have been carefully scrutinized by our historian, Mr. Charles Brooks, and we are fortunate in possessing so painstaking an annal-

[1] Read before the Medford Historical Society.

ist. A native of the town, with which his family had a most respectable ancestral connection, his history of Medford was a labor of love, and he devoted many years of his life to the work.

The necessities of my task compel me to recall to your memory a few facts touching the early settlement of Medford.

The Massachusetts Bay Company, organized in London in 1628, had secured a royal patent for the planting of colonies between Massachusetts bay and Charles river on the south, and the river Merrimac on the north, and three miles on either side of these rivers and bays; as also for the government of those who did or should inhabit within that compass. In 1628 came over John Endicott with his following, and in 1629 several ships arrived bringing immigrants to the number of 300. In 1630 the planting of the new colony received an even larger impulse. John Winthrop, of Suffolk, lent a hand to the enterprise, and during the early months of that year 17 ships brought over some 1,200 people, whose arrival in Salem marked the era of a more extensive colonization.

But there was another man behind this movement, whose zeal, wealth, and personal influence contributed much to its success. Matthew Cradock, of Swithin's lane, London, and Rumford, Essex, merchant, took a deep interest in the Puritan cause and in the settlement of New England. He was especially instrumental in forming the Company of Massachusetts Bay, whose organization was the first systematic effort for the permanent settlement of this colony. In all subscriptions for helping the colony, he gave the largest sum. He was elected the first governor of the company, but held the office only a few months; yet seems to have been for some time the chief manager of the home affairs of the company. He never visited the colony. By his own motion the company transferred the government of the colony from London to New

England, and John Winthrop succeeded to the chief executive office. From that time, Massachusetts became to a large degree self-governed.

The earliest information we get concerning the circumstances under which Medford was settled comes from a letter written by Governor Dudley, March 28, 1631. After a recital of the events connected with the arrival of the colonists, he says: "We began to consult of a place for our sitting down, for Salem, where we landed, pleased us not. And to that purpose, some were sent to the Bay to search up the rivers for a convenient place, who upon their return reported to have found a good place upon Mistick. . . . We found a place liked us better three leagues up Charles River." After stating that they shipped their goods with much cost and labor to Charlestown, he goes on to say: "There receiving advertisements by some of the late arrived ships, from London and Amsterdam, of some French preparations against us, we were forced to change counsel, and for our present shelter to plant dispersedly; some at Charlestown, which stands on the north side of the Mouth of Charles River; Some on the south side which we named Boston; . . . Some of us upon Mistick, which we named Meadford." And then he proceeds to name the other settlements which they made at Watertown, Roxbury, and Dorchester.

Without going into further details, it is plain enough that the men specially engaged in the service of Mr. Cradock, probably with others, settled on the east side of Mystic river, nearly opposite the Ten Hill Farm, where Governor Winthrop established himself. It may be reasonably supposed that Governor Winthrop himself suggested the location. Here the General Court afterwards made to Governor Cradock large grants of lands covering all the territory of Medford lying on the north side of Mystic river. Let us see who these men of Cradock's were, and what was the nature of the work he had laid out for them. Some light is thrown upon

this matter by letters from the London company directed to the authorities here. In one they say: "We have sent six shipwrights of whom Robert Moulton is chief. These men's entertainment is very chargeable to us, and by agreement is to be borne two-thirds at the charge of the general company, and the other one-third by Mr. Cradock, our Governor, and his associates interested in a private stock. Our Governor, Mr. Cradock, hath entertained [paid the expenses of] two gardeners, one of which he is content the Company shall have use of, if need be."

In a second letter we find the following: "The cattle now and formerly sent have been all provided by the Governor, Mr. Cradock, except the three mares that came out of Leicestershire.

"The provisions for building of ships, as pitch, tar, rosin, oakum, old ropes for oakum, cordage and sail-cloth in all these ships, with nine firkins and five half barrels of nails in the 'Two Sisters' are two-thirds for the Company in general, and one third to the Governor, Mr. Cradock, and his partners; as is also the Charge of one George Farr, now sent over to the six shipwrights formerly sent."

They further say: "William Ryall and Thomas Bude, carpenters and cleavers of timber, are entertained by us in halves with Mr. Cradock, our Governor."

In 1630 Mr. Cradock provides a man, Richard Waterman, "whose chief employment will be to get you good venison."

Earlier, in 1629, the company had sent over a seine, salt, lines, hooks, knives, boots, etc., for the fishermen.

It is pretty evident from these and other records that the plans of Mr. Cradock embraced the planting of fishing stations along this portion of the coast of Massachusetts, and it would appear that he made Medford the headquarters of his business; although he had establishments at Marblehead and in the vicinity of the Merrimac, and perhaps elsewhere.

And now, at last, I reach my special topic ; for it was in furtherance of this great colonial enterprise of the fisheries that the first vessels were built on the Mystic, as they were in fact at various places along the coast. They were craft of small size suited to the purposes for which they were designed. Yet I have no doubt that some of them made considerable voyages, as to the West Indies, with which islands New England carried on a considerable trade from the earliest times, taking out salted fish, staves, and lumber, and bringing back the products of the islands; and you must remember that until within a century or two even those vessels intended for ocean navigation were very small. Only *one* of the vessels that composed the squadron of Columbus was decked, and the "Mayflower" that brought over the Pilgrim Fathers was but 180 tons burden. Hume the historian tells us that in 1582, only 48 years before the settlement of New England, the merchant marine of the kingdom consisted of 1,232 vessels, and of these only 217 were of 80 tons burden — probably not a half dozen of them reached 200 tons.

To Governor Winthrop belongs the honor of building the first vessel whose keel was laid in the colony. It was built on the banks of the Mystic, probably not far from the governor's house, at the Ten Hills. It was a bark of 30 tons, built of locust cut on the governor's farm, and was called the "Blessing of the Bay." It was launched July 4, 1631. Mr. Brooks finds that it cost 145 pounds, and that the owner said of it, in 1636, "I will sell her for 160 pounds." Now hear Mr. Brooks: "There was something singularly prophetic that the first vessel built 'at Mistick' should have increased in price after 5 years' service. Our day has seen the prophecy fulfilled; as it is no marvel now for a Medford ship to command a higher price after having had a fair trial at sea." Well, I don't know; to me it seems very like the case of a trader who marks up his goods, thinking that thereby he increases the value of his stock.

We have no information that the governor ever got his 160 pounds. I sincerely hope he did. Our excellent historian, whom I thoroughly love, is a little apt to lapse into rhapsody when he comes in sight of anything which redounds to the glory of Medford, and he can come to conclusions very satisfactory to himself on very slight data. Yet something can be pardoned to the spirit of local pride. By the by, there is a plaster bust of Rev. Charles Brooks in the Brooks School-house in this city. I don't know whether any copy of it exists. I wish we could procure one, for the bust of the first historian of the town would form a most appropriate feature in the decoration of these rooms.

To return to the "Blessing of the Bay"— it must not be assumed that this vessel was the first ever built in New England. In 1607 a vessel of 30 tons, called the "Virginia," was built at the mouth of the Kennebec river, by the Popham colonists, who started a settlement which ultimately collapsed. This vessel made several voyages across the Atlantic.

An account of the colony, written by William Wood, who resided in the colony several years, published in 1634, gives us a glimpse of Medford in the earliest days of its settlement, and it incidentally refers to the next piece of ship-building which was done on the Mystic, or, as he calls it, *Mistick:*

"The next town is Mystick, which is three miles from Charlestown by land, and a league and one half by water. It is seated on the waterside very pleasantly; there are not many houses as yet. At the head of this river are great and spacious ponds, whither the alewives press to spawn. This being a noted place for that kind of fish, the English resort hither to take them. On the west side of the river the Governor has a farm, where he keeps most of his cattle. On the east side is Mr. Cradock's plantation, where he has impaled a park, where he keeps his cattle till he can store it with deer. Here likewise he is at charges of building ships. The

last year one was upon the stocks of a hundred tons; that being finished, they are to build one twice her burden. Ships, without either ballast or loading may float down the river, otherwise the oyster bank would hinder which crosseth the channel." We can go down the river now without running foul of oyster banks.

Mr. Cradock built another vessel, called the "Rebecca." It seems very probable that these vessels were built on the site of what was afterwards called Foster's shipyard.

And now, so far as the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries are concerned, we have come pretty much to the end of our record of any ship-building done in Medford. Doubtless some small craft were built here; lighters, ketches, and boats employed for river transportation — perhaps some small fishing-vessels; but we have no reason to believe that ship-building was carried on as a considerable industry. The fact is, the patronage which Medford received from Governor Cradock was by no means an unmixed blessing. Early Medford almost died of it. The governor monopolized almost all the land, and small holdings were rare. There was little chance for the honest yoemen, the bone and sinew of any land. And Mr. Cradock died early, in 1644, and his works (material) followed him; certainly, few of them remained behind — only his house, which was a fine thing for antiquarian purposes, and the bridge which his agent half built, and which was everlastingly appealing to the General Court for the repairs which were very grudgingly bestowed. The governor's establishment was probably soon withdrawn, and his fishermen, and coopers, and shipwrights, and wood-choppers sought fresh fields and pastures new. The people left were few in number, and so poor that they could not support a settled ministry — the last humiliation a Puritan community could be called upon to endure.

Yes, it was a bad case of too much patronage — patronage, a reliance always uncertain, and disastrous

when it is withdrawn. How thoroughly Dr. Johnson appreciated this fact appears in those famous lines of his in which he deplores the situation of the poor scholar:

> "Alas! what ills the scholar's life assail —
> Toil, envy, want, the patron and the jail!"

After the governor's death, his executors sold his lands in very large parcels to speculators, in whose hands they remained without doing much good to anybody. And so Medford became what the folks in the General Court called a "peculiar" town. It was exempted from taxation and received a grant of public territory in Maine, from which I imagine it never realized much benefit. As late as 1707 Medford had only 46 ratable polls, with an entire population of 230 souls; but after that it grew more rapidly, so that in 1736 its population had nearly trebled. People from outside had begun to get possession of the land, and they found that Medford was a very good place to live in — as they have ever since.

If we are to be historical, let us tell the truth. I recall these facts of the olden time with no spirit of disparagement, either in the case of the early inhabitants of Medford, or that magnificent man, Matthew Cradock. The evils to which I have referred were simply the result of exceptional circumstances.

I find confirmatory proof of my assumption that few vessels were built in Medford in the seventeenth century. In Volume VII. of the Massachusetts Archives, which is in manuscript, is to be found a "Register of all such ships and vessels concerning the owners and property whereof proof hath been made upon oath before William Stoughton, Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts Bay in New England, etc., according to the directions of the Act of Parliament, passed in the seventh and eighth year of the reign of King William the Third, entitled, An Act for preventing frauds and regulating abuses in the Plantation Trade." I have examined this register,

which covers about 300 pages of manuscript. It records the name, tonnage, and ownership of each vessel, with the place where it was built. More than 1,200 vessels are entered in the register, and out of them all there is but one Medford-built vessel, the brigantine "Joanna," of 70 tons, built in 1699, and owned and commanded by one Bailey, of Boston. In this same register we find 130 vessels built on the Merrimac river, of which 100 were built at Newbury, and perhaps as many more at Scituate and other towns on the North river. The register contains a record of vessels built from 1680 to 1714.

In the eighteenth century, which comes nearer to our times, we have no evidence that the business of ship-building was prosecuted, and it is improbable that any craft larger than a lighter was built here.

But the time came at last when ship-building was to be established as a great local industry, and the noble vessels launched from our yards were to carry the American flag all over the world.

The pioneer in this movement, so eventful to the town, was Thatcher Magoun. This great ship-builder was born in Pembroke, Mass., June 17, 1775, the day on which the battle of Bunker Hill was fought. He early took up the trade of a ship-carpenter, and served his time with Enos Briggs, at Salem, where he remained five years. From Salem he went to Mr. Barker's yard, in Charlestown (now the Navy Yard), where he worked and studied two years, assisting in moulding, for which art he showed a marked aptitude. There, it is said, he made the model of the first vessel he ever built, the brig "Mt. Ætna." Mr. Magoun was not a man to remain content with a subordinate position in his trade, and he determined to begin business on his own account. Living then alongside the Mystic river, he did not fail to observe the advantages which its sloping

banks and open reaches presented to the ship-builder. After careful examination he selected a piece of ground nearly opposite the end of Park street, where he established a ship-yard, and, in 1803, he proceeded to build his first vessel, the "Mt. Ætna." He continued in the business from that time until 1836, and during that period built 84 vessels. I well remember Mr. Magoun, a portly gentleman, of extremely dignified bearing, then considerably advanced in age. He accumulated a handsome fortune as a ship-builder and ship-owner, and died, I believe, somewhere in the fifties.

Mr. Calvin Turner was the next ship-builder to establish himself here, and his ship-yard was located on Riverside avenue, opposite the end of Cross street. (I say *Riverside avenue* with a mental protest, for it is a shame and disgrace to us that the old historical name of "Ship street," a name that had a meaning in it, should be changed to the commonplace name of "Riverside avenue," duplicated in every town in the United States which has got a river in it.)[1] I say, then, that Mr. Turner's ship-yard was located about opposite the westerly end of Cross street, and it was afterwards known as "Lapham's ship-yard." Mr. Turner was esteemed as one of the most skilful draughtsmen, as well as one of the most faithful builders, in New England. He began business in 1804, and rapidly acquired reputation in his profession.

And here let me proceed at once to mention the location of the ship-yards which were, from first to last, established in Medford, with the names of those who occupied them. There were ten of them. I will begin with the one which stood lowest on the river, and will take them in their order, going up the stream:

1. A ship-yard at the foot of what is now Foster's court, off Riverside avenue. It was first used by Sprague & James, in 1817. Afterwards used by Foster

[1] The Historical Society petitioned the City Council to restore the old name of Ship street, but the petition was dismissed without a hearing.

& Taylor, and finally by J. T. Foster. In 1847 Isaac Hall built one vessel here.

2. Yard on Riverside avenue, opposite the end of Park street. Established in 1803 by Thatcher Magoun; afterwards used by Curtis & Co., Paul & J. O. Curtis, F. Waterman & H. Ewell, and Hayden & Cudworth.

3. Yard on Riverside avenue, opposite end of Cross street. Occupied in 1805 by Calvin Turner & E. Briggs, and at successive periods by Calvin Turner, E. & H. Rogers, G. B. Lapham, and S. Lapham.

4. Yard off Swan street, site of present city stables. Here James O. Curtis commenced ship-building in 1839, and the yard was exclusively used by him except in one instance, when B. F. Delano used it to build a small schooner.

5. Yard on northerly side of river, opposite the old high school-house on High street. Here George H. Briggs built a schooner in 18—.

6. Yard on South street, opposite the end of Walnut street. Occupied by James Ford, where he built two schooners in 1814. They were intended for privateering, and were built in the short space of thirty-six days. This yard was afterwards used by George Fuller.

7. Yard on South street, northerly end of Curtis street. Here Paul Curtis established himself in 1839, and he remained here until he removed his business to East Boston.

8. Yard on South street, just above Winthrop-street bridge. Occupied by Jotham Stetson from 1833 to 1853. Luther Turner built one bark here in 1854.

9. Yard on South street, on land adjoining Boston & Lowell Railroad. Here Peter Lewis built one schooner in 1845.

10. Yard at Rock Hill landing, at the foot of the hill. Probably used for the building of lighters.

I am much indebted to my friend, Mr. John H. Hooper, for assistance rendered me in locating these

yards, and for other information. No man can safely deal with the old topography of Medford without consulting him.

I have not the information which would enable me to write biographical notices of the ship-builders of the town, and I must content myself with saying that they were men of high character, of great executive ability, thoroughly trained in all the knowledge of their profession. They had the courage of men of strong will, and were not afraid to build a good ship in advance of orders, and if they sometimes lost money in doing so, they found their advantage in giving employment to their faithful and trusted men until better times should come. It bound employers and employed in closest bonds of respect and affection.

Of the ship-carpenters themselves it may be said that there was never, in any employment, a body of mechanics more intelligent or respectable. They were nearly all, as were the master-builders, natives of Scituate, or of towns in its vicinity, and it may well be said that the establishment of ship-building in Medford was a second settlement of the town. The impress which the newcomers made upon the character, and especially the physique, of our population is favorably felt up to the present time.

It remains that I should speak of the results of the work performed by the ship-builders of Medford. Rev. Abijah R. Baker, formerly pastor of the Second Congregational Church of Medford, delivered a discourse on this subject on Thanksgiving Day, 1846. The sermon was full of valuable information, and was published. Through the kindness of Mr. Dean, Librarian of the Massachusetts Historical and Genealogical Society and our respected associate, I have been permitted to consult a copy of Mr. Baker's printed discourse which is contained in the library of the society. This document gives a complete register of all vessels built in Medford from 1803 to 1846, with name of each ship, date of

building, the yard in which it was built, builder, owner, and tonnage. This register was afterwards supplemented by Mr. Brooks, and brought up to 1854. The whole will be found in his history (pp. 366 to 380). Mr. Usher, in his edition of "Brooks' History," fails to complete the register down to the close of ship-building, 1873, and, for some inscrutable reason, Mr. Brooks' register does not appear in his book. Mr. Usher gives, however, some tables of statistics which are of interest in this connection.

To return to Mr. Baker's discourse: After stating that the greatest number of vessels constructed in any one yard was 185, and in any single year 30, he goes on as follows:

"The tonnage of the vessels built here in that year, 1845, was nine thousand seven hundred and twelve tons; and their aggregate value, as they left our yards, about half a million of dollars. The shortest space in which a vessel was ever built in the town was twenty-six days. Her name was 'The Avon,' a ship of four hundred tons, which, with two others built here about the same period, served as privateers in the last war with the mother country. In the five years preceding April first, 1837, sixty vessels were built in this town, which employed two hundred thirty-nine workmen, and of which the measurement was twenty-four thousand one hundred and ninety-five tons, and the value one million one hundred and twelve thousand nine hundred and seventy dollars. All those constructed in the county, except eleven, were built here.

"The value of these sixty was about one-sixth of all the shipping built in the Commonwealth during the same period.

"In the year preceding April first, 1845, twenty-four ships were launched here, whose tonnage was nine thousand six hundred and sixty, and whose value was half a million of dollars.

"In that year, one-quarter of the ship-builders in the

Commonwealth were employed in this town, and built nearly one-quarter of the ships constructed in the State, one-third of the tonnage, and one-half the value of the whole. From this result, so creditable to our town, it appears that a given number of workmen here build larger and more valuable vessels than those which are commonly constructed in other parts of the Commonwealth."

As an addition to the statistics of Mr. Baker, I will state that Mr. John Stetson, our venerable fellow-citizen, informs me that he saw 19 vessels in process of construction at the same time, in the ship-yards of the town. He does not remember the year.

I will now give you the aggregate results of the ship-building of the town as shown by Mr. Usher's tables:

Builders.	No. vessels.	Builders.	No. vessels.
Thatcher Magoun	84	Foster & Taylor	22
C. Turner & E. Briggs	3	Paul Curtis	27
Calvin Turner	25	James O. Curtis	78
James Ford	2	George H. Briggs	1
Sprague & James	66	Peter Lewis	1
George Fuller	29	Henry Ewell	9
E. & H. Rogers	9	John Taylor	12
John Sparrell	1	Joshua T. Foster	42
Samuel Lapham	20	Haydn & Cudworth	39
Jotham Stetson	32	B. F. Delano	2
Curtis & Co.	2	Luther Turner	1
P. & J. O. Curtis	6	Isaac Hall	1
Waterman & Ewell	51		
			568

Decade.	Numbers.	Total Tonnage.
1803–1812	32	8,408
1813–1822	62	15,459
1823–1832	83	23,285
1833–1842	122	57,674
1843–1852	185	97,434
1853–1862	70	57,815
1863–1873	14	12,049
	568	272,124

You will see that in the 70 years which covered the life of this industry in Medford 568 vessels were built, with an aggregate of 272,194 tons, and at a cost, as estimated, of $12,500,000. In the later decades of the industry, the size of the vessels very much increased. In the decade following 1803 the average was 263 tons, and in the last decade it was 860 tons.

From 1850 to 1855 33 vessels were built, of a capacity of more than 1,000 tons each. This was in the flush times of the California trade, when the finest clippers that sailed the ocean were Medford-built. The largest ship ever launched in Medford was the "Ocean Express," of 2,000 tons, built by J. O. Curtis; and ships of more than 1,000 tons were built above Cradock bridge.

The ship-yards play an important part in the recollections of those who, like me, remember them in the heyday of their prosperity. They furnished the favorite playgrounds of the boys, and we were never tired of watching the growth of a vessel from the time the keel was laid and the frames uplifted, till the last touch of the ship-joiners was put upon the cabins and state-rooms. The busy scene was always picturesque, and the multifarious processes of construction to the last degree interesting. We might have said with Longfellow, had his lines been written at that time:

> "Ah! what a wondrous thing it is
> To note how many wheels of toil
> One thought, one word, can set in motion:
> There's not a ship that sails the ocean
> But every climate, every soil,
> Must bring its tribute, great or small,
> And help to build the wooden wall!"

The schools were sometimes given half-holidays when a great ship was to be launched. It was thus I witnessed the launch of the "St. Petersburg," built by Mr. Magoun, in 1839. It was a ship of 828 tons, the largest ship which up to that time had been built in

Medford. It was the first launch I ever saw. How beautiful the brightly painted ship, with her graceful outlines, appeared to me, and with what a thrill I saw the last block knocked away, and the slowly increasing movement of the mighty mass! I can still see the hundred stalwart men on the shore manning the great hawsers, checking and guiding the vessel as she swings into the stream on her way to the wharves of Boston.

I can remember when one of Paul Curtis' ships grounded while going through the draw of Cradock bridge, where she had to stay till the next tide, and the bother people had in getting from one side of the river to the other; vehicles bound for Boston were compelled to make their way through Arlington, for there were no bridges above the Cradock then.

Our secretary informs me that he was once present at a launch of one of James O. Curtis' ships. The vessel moved for a short distance and then stopped. A hawser was attached to her, and a tug-boat endeavored to start her down the ways. After several ineffectual efforts, the boat gave up the job and lay idle in the stream. Suddenly the great vessel ceased to sulk, and, of her own volition, rushed down the ways, advanced on the tug-boat before she could get out of the way, and landed her high and dry upon the opposite bank of the river. Vessels on the launch-ways had many caprices, and it sometimes required a deal of coaxing to get them into the water.

But it is useless for me, by any indulgence in pleasant reminiscences, to defer the painful catastrophe with which this narrative must close. You have seen that in the last decade of ship-building in Medford (1863–1873) there was a marked decline in the prosperity of the industry: only 14 ships were built in that period — hardly more than one ship a year. In 1873 the last ship ever built in Medford, the "Pilgrim," was launched from the yard of J. T. Foster, and from that time the sound of the shipwright's hammer was never more

heard on the banks of the Mystic. The first gun of the Civil War had sounded the knell of the merchant marine of the United States. The large carrying trade which our ships had enjoyed passed into other hands, and, in the interval, iron had superseded wood in the construction of ships. Competition with foreign builders had become impossible, for they had the advantage of us both in the cheapness of labor and materials. Worse than all — we had lost our grip.

It is a matter of regret and shame to all lovers of the Republic that the flag that once floated in every harbor of the world has now almost disappeared from the ocean; that the once successful commercial rival of Great Britain is now abjectly dependent upon her for the carriage of its own exports and imports. It is contrary to the genius of our people that this state of things should be permitted to continue forever; and when the conditions become more favorable, as they surely will, in the further development of our great industrial resources we may hope for the triumphant reëstablishment of American commerce.

In the meanwhile we who can look back through a long vista of years dwell, perhaps too fondly, upon the past. The ship-builders of a generation ago, masters and men, have nearly all gone over to the silent majority; but they have left behind them the memory of successful industry and sturdy honesty, and of a matchless skill in the noblest of all arts — the building of ships. Medford should never cease to do honor to the memory of those great mechanics, and it has done well to engrave upon its municipal seal the beautiful and appropriate device of the launching ship.

SOME NOTES OF THE HISTORY OF MEDFORD FROM 1801 TO 1851.[1]

By Hon. Thomas S. Harlow.

I HAVE been requested to speak of the history of Medford during the first half of the present century. An old writer once said, "Happy are the people who have no history." This is only another mode of expressing the quiet happiness of the calm, contented life in which so many of our New England towns moved on, with little to record and little to disturb them. Not being a native of Medford, and not yet a centenarian, I can hardly be expected to have any personal recollection of the early portion of the half-century. My sources of information are the same that are accessible to most of you, the town records, the history of Medford so carefully prepared by Rev. Charles Brooks, and the traditions and recollections of the few survivors of that early time. Alas, they are but few! Of the few with whom I became acquainted on my first visit to Medford, more than sixty-five years ago, not one survives; and of those whom I knew when I became a permanent resident in 1843, scarcely one remains, and some entire families have disappeared.

There were really but two events of importance which marked the first half of the century. The first was the war of 1812. At that time Dr. (afterwards Governor) John Brooks, a native of Medford, had at the conclusion of the Revolutionary war returned to the home of his childhood and resumed the practice of his profession, living in the old house which was taken down a few years ago and replaced by the building of the Savings Bank. His second son, John Brooks, adopted his father's profession, but on the outbreak of the war joined the army, with the rank of lieutenant, and fell on shipboard in the great naval battle of Lake

[1] Read before the Medford Historical Society.

Erie, which gave to our fleet the control of the lakes. In this war eighteen Medford citizens enlisted, two of whom, Edmund Gates and Abiel R. Shed, were killed in battle.

Another distinguished son of Medford, Alexander Scammell Brooks, eldest son of Governor Brooks, made a good reputation in this war. Born in Medford in 1777, he entered Harvard College in 1801, and leaving it in 1804 entered the merchant service as a mariner. But the Embargo of 1808, so destructive to the mercantile prosperity of New England, closed that career for a time, but it was renewed soon after, and he returned to his chosen profession.

But when the war broke out he received a commission as captain in the army, and remained and did good service in the army as long as he lived. He was brevetted major for gallant conduct at the battle of Plattsburg, and afterwards received a commission as lieutenant-colonel. He once told me a little incident of his experience during the war. A company of sailors had been drafted for service in the fleet on the lakes, and were to march under his command from the North End of Boston to go into camp at Roxbury. They marched through Hanover and down Court streets, and on reaching Washington street he gave the order, "Right wheel." Whether as sailors they did not understand the order, or the strong breeze coming up State street with its familiar smell of the sea attracted them, the order shouted out with all his strength was disregarded, and they continued to head straight for Long wharf. His old instincts as a sailor prompted him, and with a yell as from a speaking-trumpet came the order, "Luff, d—n you, luff!" This they understood, and coming up handsomely into the wind's eye took the road for Roxbury. The incident was a source of amusement in the papers at the time, and caricatures of it were printed.

Colonel Brooks, though stationed from time to time

in various parts of the country with his command, made Medford his home when permitted, as long as he lived, occupying the old house of his father before mentioned, where in the old time I had many a game of whist with him.

His fate was a singular one. He had always a great horror of steamboats, and would never voluntarily travel on one. But in December, 1836, he was ordered to proceed from Fort Moultrie, S.C., to Florida, to take command of his regiment in the Florida war. He embarked on the steamer "Dolphin;" the boilers, as he had always anticipated, blew up, and he was killed.

In the early part of the century all male citizens between the ages of eighteen and forty-five were compelled to do military duty, unless excused by physical disability or by the holding of certain offices. They formed the militia of the State, and were usually called out three times a year: in the spring for inspection of arms and equipments, the absence of which, as well as non-appearance, was punished by a fine; again, in the summer, for drill; and in the autumn by regiments or brigades, at what was called general muster, for review. This last was a great occasion, in which all the high officials of the military, with their glittering uniforms, and frequently the governor, paraded in all their glory. The plain in the easterly part of Medford, now covered with streets and houses, was frequently the muster-field. Such a company existed in Medford as early as 1781. Until 1804 this company belonged to the First Regiment, First Brigade, and Third Division; then a new regiment was formed, the Fifth, and the company was transferred to it, and from that time I believe that every company formed in Medford, with possibly the exception of one of those raised during the war, has formed a part of the same Fifth Regiment. I would also except the Independent Company organized under the same law of 1785, and

with the same standing and liberties as the Boston and the Salem Cadets, belonging to no regiment and having the right of the line at reviews. This company resigned its charter in 1828. You all know the little brick powder-house standing near the top of the hill, just above the house of Mr. A. F. Sise. Within my recollection it was used for the storage of powder and was protected by a lightning-rod. During the war of 1812 the company last mentioned kept guard over it for some weeks. Upon the dissolution of this company the members were, under the existing law, enrolled in the militia company under the command of Capt. John Sparrell, whom some of my elder hearers may remember, and who appeared at the muster that autumn at the head of a company of one hundred and ninety-six rank and file. Medford, I think, has never mustered so large a company since, for the duty was considered irksome and was evaded when possible.

This company was succeeded by the Brooks Phalanx in 1841, which was dissolved in 1849, and was succeeded by the Lawrence Light Guard in 1854. This company was well organized and in a good state of discipline at the time of the breaking out of the war of the Rebellion, in which, under its commander, Capt. John Hutchins, it took an active part; but the period at which its brave and patriotic services were performed covers a later date than that assigned to me to record. I can only say that their valor, their devotion, the patience and the courage with which they underwent the hardships and encountered the dangers of the war, were beyond all praise, and will ever be held in grateful remembrance by their townsmen and their country.

I have spoken of Governor Brooks. It was once my good fortune to see him. In 1819, when he was governor and the district (now State) of Maine was a part of Massachusetts, he came down among us to attend, in his capacity of commander-in-chief, the annual militia musters. My father then lived at Cas-

tine, and the muster-field was about three miles from the village. He took me, then a lad of hardly seven years, with him, and we walked to the muster. He pointed out to me the governor as he galloped across the field at full speed — alone — to rectify some irregularity, upon a black horse, wearing a three-cornered cocked hat, and a powdered cue hanging down his back. So much for the military history of Medford.

The next matter of special interest in the history of the first half of the century relates to theological and parochial affairs. All religious and parochial matters were the affair of the State and the town. Until 1833 the law required every citizen to pay his portion of the expense of maintaining public worship according to his ability. So long as there was but one religious society in the town, the town and the parish were one — there was no distinction. The town at its annual meetings voted the appropriations for the minister's salary and the other expenses for support of public worship, and every man was taxed for this purpose according to his means. Religion was an affair of the State. The prevailing doctrine of the churches was the old orthodox Calvinistic creed, but in the early part of the century, perhaps about 1815, this doctrine began to be held with a certain laxity of interpretation by many of the people and not a few of the ministers. Those who wavered were frequently styled *Arminians*, which seemed to indicate a rejection of the stricter doctrines of predestination. The change was gradual, and at first almost imperceptible. Some of the older ministers were observed to dwell less in their sermons upon the five points of Calvinism and more upon religion as a *life* rather than a mode of belief, and a greater liberality of thought was allowed. The stricter orthodox became uneasy, and in many of the older churches the division began.

Dr. David Osgood was settled in 1774 over what was then the only church in Medford, and continued to be

the pastor till his decease, in December, 1822. Undoubtedly, at the time of his settlement, his creed was what was then deemed strictly orthodox, and in a written statement containing his doctrinal views, on accepting the call, he acknowledged his belief "in the doctrines specified in the assembly's catechism," "which doctrines," said he, "I am bound to profess, and as a preacher to teach and inculcate." The opposition to his settlement was very small, and seemed to come from those who were called *Arminians*, and was founded upon his belief in those doctrines "which," said they in their written protest, "represented an infinitely holy God as the cause of all sin in his children." But his opposers soon became reconciled and gave him their hearty support, and during his life there was no interruption to the harmony of the church.

Yet but few reasoning, thinking men can maintain to old age either the philosophical or the theological opinions they held in youth. Though Dr. Osgood never called himself a Unitarian, and never distinctly and publicly avowed a change in his belief, there can be no doubts, from many remarks dropped as if casually, and various little incidents which occurred, that for the latter part of his life the assembly's catechism ceased to be held in reverence, and that he was much more in accord with Dr. Channing than with John Calvin.

A little anecdote told me more than fifty years ago, by a gentleman who had means of knowing of what he spoke, indicates something of the gradual change in his opinions. He was one of the ordaining council at the settlement of Rev. B. B. Wisner over the Old South Church. He took no active part in the long examination of the candidate, but when the others had finished he said to the candidate, "Young man, do you really believe in all this that you have stated?" The answer was of course in the affirmative. "Well, well," said the doctor, "if you live to be as old as I am you won't believe more than half of it."

But the sleeping embers of dissent and disunion were soon kindled after his death. Early in 1823 a call was made upon the Rev. Andrew Bigelow to become the pastor. This call of course was made by the town, the primary authority, as has been shown, but was far from unanimous, the vote being ninety-five to seventy, and the call was concurred in by the church. There is no record of the ground of the opposition, though it was undoubtedly made by Trinitarians as against Unitarians. The salary offered was $800. Dr. Osgood never received over $533.33, viz., £100, lawful money ($333.33), and an allowance of $200 a year for wood.

At that time it was understood to be both the law and the practice that a minister once settled was settled for life — unless he became morally disqualified or they separated by mutual consent. The minister was considered, like the parson under the English law, to have a *freehold*. It was his property, in the enjoyment of which he could not be disturbed. But in the settlement of Mr. Bigelow a novel clause was for the first time in the history of Medford, and perhaps of Massachusetts, introduced, providing that the relation between them might be terminated by either party, upon six months' written notice. Mr. Bigelow availed himself of this provision in November, 1825.

My first visit to Medford was to my uncle, the Rev. Caleb Stetson, who then lived in the house in West Medford afterwards occupied by Jonathan Brooks, where Miss Lucy Ann Brooks, the last of his descendants, lately deceased. In June, 1833, before going to college, I came here and took charge for one year of the grammar school kept in the west end of the little one-story whitewashed brick school-house standing in the rear of the church and west of the horse sheds. In the other end of the building was a school for little children, taught by Miss Jane Symmes (afterwards Mrs. Hunt), whom many of you doubtless remember. The only other grammar school in town was kept by Alex-

ander Gregg, afterwards a coal dealer, in a one-story brick building on Cross street, within the grounds of the present cemetery. Who could then have imagined the change which sixty years have made, or dreamed of the magnificent palaces in which our children now are taught?

There were, a little before and for many years afterwards, two or three private schools of wide reputation. The first of these was kept by Hannah Swan, sister of Dr. Swan, in the large house on Forest street removed a few years ago to make room for the house occupied by J. Manning. After she left, the house was taken by Mr. John Angier, who kept a boarding-school there for many years, and had scholars from other States and from the West Indies. The Misses Bradbury kept an excellent school for young ladies, boarders and others, on South street. Mrs. Russell, mother of the late Governor Russell, told me she attended school there.

During the first half of the century, and until the fourteenth amendment of the Constitution in 1855, a majority of voters, instead of a plurality as now, was required for the election of any public officer. The consequence often was that for many public offices there was a failure to elect. For the governor and senators a mode was prescribed for filling the vacancy, but for representatives, if the people failed to make a choice, they were left unrepresented. As the law then stood, if they failed to elect on the first day they could adjourn to the next day. Upon a second failure they could adjourn for one week. If there was then no choice they had to go unrepresented. I recollect at least one failure to elect.

I think there was much less interest taken in politics then than now. I have more than once attended a caucus for the nomination of representative in the selectmen's room when not more than eight or ten were present.

I had intended to enlarge a little upon the ship-build-

ing interest of Medford, but looking over the programme of exercises for the season I see that that matter has already been made the subject of one address, and I will gladly spare you repetition of an old story.

The Middlesex Canal I see has already been treated, and I will not dwell upon that; yet I have some very pleasant recollections connected with it, of which you will permit me to say a word, as it relates rather to the poetic than to the business uses of the canal. When I was here as a young man — I am afraid the custom is not so faithfully kept up now — it was customary to make walking parties of young men and ladies. One of our favorite walks was to Rockhill, on the land of Mr. Hastings, to see the sun set. Another, and perhaps the best, was up the banks of the canal, and through the grounds of Mr. P. C. Brooks, to the parting of the ponds — the spot where the dam of the Mystic Water Works now stands. As the canal boats came along, as they constantly did, they were always ready, when asked, to sheer up to the bank and take us on board, and so we passed on, through the beautiful single-arched stone bridge in the grounds of Mr. Brooks, and then, leaving the boat, made our way to the pond. Mr. Brooks was always kindly disposed, and took pleasure in allowing his friends to visit his beautiful garden and grounds.

We had no steam railroad till 1835, when the Boston & Lowell Railroad was laid out. So little foresight had its projectors as to its future uses and values that it was thought desirable to avoid the towns between the termini and have no way stations. So the road, instead of its natural course through the Mystic valley, was carried at great additional expense through Winter and Walnut hills and away from the centre of the town. When the road was opened, in the spring of 1835, Mr. P. C. Brooks, desirous of giving his townsmen the novelty of riding for the first time on a railroad, arranged with the managers to have the train stop one morning at West Medford and take a party to Lowell

and return. I happened to be here on a visit at the time and joined the party of about forty or fifty, not more than two or three of whom had ever travelled by railroad before.

Though at the risk of trying your patience too long, I should like to say a few words of some of my old Medford friends who have passed away — some of whom I hope may still be kindly remembered by some of you. Let me mention Mr. P. C. Brooks, then probably the richest man in New England, Rev. Caleb Stetson, well esteemed even among those who differed most widely from his religious views, the elder E. F. Hastings, D. Hall, Captain King, father of Mrs. D. C. Hall, Rev. C. Brooks and T. Cotting, with both the latter of whom I was associated many years on the school committee, and Mary and Lucy Osgood, who had a celebrity in the scholarly society of the vicinity not limited to Medford. They were intelligent, highly cultivated, well versed in ancient and modern languages and literature, taking up the study of German after reaching the age of fifty. Mary, the elder, was bright, quick in forming her opinions or prejudices, and blunt and honest in the expression of them, with an enjoyment of wit and humor which was denied to her sister. Miss Lucy, the younger, was a woman of larger intelligence and superior mental power, and much more conservative in her opinions, often acting as a wholesome check upon the exuberance of her sister. Let me mention an incident which will give you some idea of Miss Mary's — shall I say character? One morning as I passed her window on my way to school she called to me — "Mr. Harlow, are you a sinner?" I pleaded guilty, quoting the assembly's catechism as evidence. "Well," said she, "if you are a sinner, come and take tea with us to-night; a few of our friends will be here to pass the evening, and they will all be saints but you; and as I think a party is pleasanter for being a little mixed, I want a sinner or two to make it more agreeable." Of course

I accepted, and with only one layman but myself met half a dozen ministers and theologues of the best the neighborhood afforded, among them Rev. Dr. Furness, Mr. Stetson, I think Dr. Francis, Joseph Angier, Nathaniel Hall, and George I. Briggs; and the cheerfulness and spirit of the evening justified her prediction.

I have endeavored to comply with the limited task assigned me. If I have trespassed too long on your patience consider that I had you at my mercy and could have detained you much longer; and remember with the poet Burns,

> "What's done we partly can compute,
> But know not what's resisted."

LITERAL COPY

OF

BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES IN MEDFORD FROM EARLIEST RECORDS.

Compiled by Miss Ella S. Hinckley.

John Whitmore Sone of John Whitmore and mary his wife born the 15 day of Aprill 1711

Charls Secomb Sone of Peter Secomb and hannah his wife born the 15th day of Jenuary $17\frac{99}{10}$

Thomas Secomb Sone of Peter Secomb and hannah his wife born the 16th of August 1711

Thomas Tufts fone of Thomas Tufts and mary his wife Born the 27 of february $17\frac{11}{12}$

George Willis Sone of Stephen Willis & fufana his wife was Born the 17th day of June 1711 and dyed the 30th day of Sd month

Benjn the son of Ebenz. and Ledia Nutting born Sept 7th 1711

Rachel Whitmore daughter of Francis Whitmore & anna his wife born ye first day of Aprill 1712

Ruth Hall daughter of thomas Hall and Abigaill his wife born the firft day of $\frac{\text{July}}{1712}$

Thomas Hall fone of pacifull Hall & Jane his wife born ye fiftenth of August 1712

William Farewell fone of Ifack farewell & Elizabeth his wife born ye 28 of $\frac{\text{december}}{1712}$

Benonie peirce ſone of nathaniell peirce & lydia his wife born 24 febt^er^ 1712 & dyed the 3^d^ of october following

Elizibeth harris daughter of Abner harris & Elizibeth his wife born march 15^th^: 1710

Abner Harris ſone of Abner Harris & Elizibeth his wife born ye 30^th^ of may 1711

Lauran Jackson Harris Sone of Abner Harris & Elizibeth his wife born ye 9^th^ of Jenuary $17\frac{12}{13}$

Johana Blancher daughter of Joseph Blancher & Elizibeth his wife born ye 25 day of may 1711

lydia Wade daughter of Samuell Wade & lydia his wife born ye 10 day of Sebtember 1707

Sarah Wade daughter of Samuell Wade & lydia his wife born ye 18 day of Jenuary 1708–9

Dorathy Wade daughter of Samuell Wade & lydia his wife born ye 22 day of february $17\frac{10}{11}$

Rebekah Wade daughter of Samuell Wade & lydia his wife born ye 28 day of Jenuary $17\frac{12}{13}$

John Greatton Sone of John Greatton & Sarah his wife born ye 25 day of march $17\frac{12}{13}$

Patiens Bradſho daughter of John Bradſho & mary his wife born ye 3^d^ day of February $17\frac{11}{12}$

Mary Bradſhoe daughter of John Bradſhoe & mary his wife dyed ye 9^th^ of october 1712

Jonathan Seccomb ſone of Richard Seccomb and Anne his wife born the 17^th^ day of ſebtember 1710

Anne Seccomb the daughter of Richard Seccomb and Anne his wife born the 17 day of Sebtember 1712

Stephen Willis Sone of Stephen willis & Suſana his wife born ye 22 day of october 1712

Sarah Wait the daughter of Peter Wait & Sarah his wife born the 14^th^ day of Jenuary $17\frac{13}{14}$

Joſeph Alberey ſone of John Alberey and Elizibeth his wife born the 16^th^ day of August 1713

Jonathan Willis Sone of Stephen Willis & Suſana his wife born ye 24 day of march 1714

Samuell lock ſone of frances lock & elizibeth his wife born ye 15^th^ of Jenuary $17\frac{13}{14}$

mary Peirce daughter of nathaniell Peirce & lydia his wife born ye 2^d^ day of march $17\frac{13}{14}$

Jonathan Willis Sone of Stephen Willis & Suſana his wife dyed the 19 day of october 1714

Aron Porter ſone of the Reverend m^r^ Aron Porter & Suſana his wife Born ye 9^th^ day of July 1714

Peter Son of Thomas & Mary Tuftt born March 8^th^ 1714

Mary Daughter of Ebenz and Ledia Nutting born march the first 1714

Thomas Peirce ſone of Benjaman Peirce and ſarah his wife born the 11th of August 1714
Benjaman lath ſone of frances lath & ſarah his wife born Jul. 2 ——
Ruth Hall daughter of Thomas Hall & abigaill dyed febtember 30: 1714
Samuell polly Sone of Samuell polly and Elizibeth his wife born the third day of november 1714
John Pattin Sone of william pattin and Abigaill his wife born ye first of Jenuary $17\frac{12}{13}$
Joshua Richardson Sone of John Richardson and Abigail his wife born Sebtember 22: 1714
Joseph Son of Joseph Chadwick and Ruth his Wife born July 11 1714
Frances Whitmore Sone of John Whitmore & Mary his wife born ye 4th day of october 1714
Peter Son of Thomas and Mary Tuftt Died Octr. 1st 1714
Zacheus Hall & Suſana Hall the Sone and daughter of Pacifull Hall and Jane his wife born ye 11th day of Jenuary $17\frac{14}{15}$ (twins)
Robert peirce ſone of Icabod peirce and ſarah his wife born november 29 1711
Nathaniell Peirce ſone of Icabod Peirce & ſarah his wife born Auguſt the 2d: 1713
John Hall Sone of Thomas Hall & abigaill his wife born ye 7th day of march $17\frac{14}{15}$
Elizibeth Hall widow & rellict of John Hall dyed ye 4th day of february 1713–14
Thomas Harris ſone of Abner haris and Elizibeth his wife born the 9th day of march 1714:15
Sarah Greatton Daughter of John & Sarah Greatton born novembr. 5 1714 & Died July the 4th 1715
Mercy Tufts the wife of Capt Peter Tufts dyed ye 18th day of June 1715
John Laribe Sone of Stephen Laribe and Margeret his wife born ye 14 day of May 1715
Mary Willis daughter of John Willis and mary his wife born the 9th of february $17\frac{15}{16}$
Mary Willis the wife of John Willis dyed the 12th day of february $17\frac{15}{16}$
mercy whitmore daughter of Frances Whitmore & Anna his wife born ye 11th day of march $17\frac{13}{14}$
Mercy Willis daughter of Stephen Willis & Suſana his wife born the 29 day of Jenuary. $17\frac{15}{15}$
Johin eds ſone of peter eds & martha his wife born ye 31 day of Jenuary $17\frac{15}{16}$
Grace Willis wife of Thomas willis Senr. dyed the 23 day of Jenuary $17\frac{15}{16}$
Iſack Farewell ſone of Isack Farewell & Elizibeth his wife dyed the first day of Aprill 1713

Dorathy Farewell daughter of Isack Farewell & Elizabeth his wife born ye 23 day of April 1715
mercy Wade Widow & Rellict of major Nathaniell Wade deceaſed ye 5th of October 1714
Samuell Wade ſone of ſamuell Wade & lydia his wife born ye 21 day of Aprill 1715
Mercy Tufts Wife of Cap^{t} Peter Tufts Died June the 16 1715
Suſana Porter daughter of the Reverend mr Aron Porter & ſuſana his wife born the 26 day of Aprill 1716
Sarah Greatton born nov^{r}. 15 1716 being the Daughter of John and Sarah Greatton.
martha whitmore daughter of John Whitmore & mary his wife born the 22 day of Aprill 1716
Abigail Daughter of John and Abigail Richardson born July 23 1716
mercy Wait daughter of Peter wait & Sarah his wife born ye 28 day of Aprill 1716
mary Daughter of Joseph & mary Ballard died Sept^{r} 16 1716
Elizabeth Hall the wife of Stephen Hall dyed the 14th day of may 1716
Elizibeth Daughter of Sam^{ll} & Eliz Polly born May 13. 1716
Elizibeth Alberee the daughter of John Allberee & Elizibeth his wife born ye 28 day of Jenuary 1715–16
Joſeph Sargeant ſone of Joſeph Sargent and Hannah his wife born the 6th day of July 1716
Lydia mansor daughter of William Mansor & Lydya his wife born the 10th day of Aprill 1716
Suſana Peirce daughter of Benjaman Peirce & farah his wife born ye 29 of Jenuary $\frac{1716}{17}$
Elizibeth lock daughter of ffrances lock & Elizibeth his wife born ye 17 day of June 1716
Mercy Whitmore ye daughter of Frances Whitmore & Anna his wife dyed on ye 8 day of ber 1715
Ruth Daughter of Joseph Chadwick and Ruth His Wife born Octob^{r} 21 $\frac{1716}{}$
Elizibeth Whitmore the daughter of Frances Whitmore & Anna his wife born ye 21 day of July 1716
Abigail the Daughter of Cap^{t} Sam^{ll} Wade & Ledia His Wife born July 28 1717
Anna Whitmore the wife of Frances Whitmore dyed the 6th day of August 1716
Rebecah Peirce daughter of nathaniel Peirce & lydia his wife born ye 5th day of August 1716
Henry Son of Thomas & Mary Tuftt born Sept^{r} 24 $\frac{1716}{}$
Mary Cummins the daughter of abraham Cummins & mary his wife born the 19th day of february $\frac{1716}{17}$
Sarah Wait the wife of Peter Wait dyed the 16th day of August 1717
Jonathan Peirce ſone of Icabod Peirce and Sarah his wife born the 8th day of octobr 1717

Sarah Blancher daughter of aron Blancher & Sarah his wife born the 30th day of July 1717
Aron Son of William and abigail Patten born April ye 16 1717
Margarat porter daughter of ye reverend mr Aron Porter & Sufana his wife born the 18th day of August 1717
Thomas Dill Died January 29 $171\frac{7}{8}$
Isaac Son of Isaac Farewell and Elizeth His Wife born January 21 $17\frac{17}{18}$
Isaac Son Isaac Farewell and Elizith His Wife died January 31 $17\frac{17}{18}$
Grace Daughter of Parcivall Hall and Jane his Wife born October 5th 1717 & Died Octor 19 1717
Ruth Daughter of Samll Polly and Elizebeth His Wife born February 25 $17\frac{17}{18}$
Mary Daughter of William and Rebecca Richardson born Aprill 17 /1717
Reuben the Son of Cooffe negro and Phillis His Wife born Febr: 15 1718
Elizabeth Oakes Wife of Thomas Oakes died February ye 3d $17\frac{17}{18}$
John Gillegrane Died Febry 3d 1718
Nathan Son of John and Martha Eades born January ye 31 $17\frac{17}{18}$
Ledia Manser Daughter of Wm Manser & Ledia His Wife died August ye 20 1717
Sarah Daughter of William and Sarah Chubb born 16 Febry $17\frac{17}{18}$

For births &c after this date
see Another book
From 1718.

RIPOSO.

I listened to the whispering pines;
Great rustling oaks their shadows cast,
And slender birches bowed their heads
When summer breezes passed.
I looked abroad o'er field and wood;
The placid lake lay calm and still;
Such beauteous peace, with silent joy
My inmost soul did thrill.
When human hearts are deepest stirred,
Responses are not voiced in word.

C. H. L.

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MEMBERS.

Number previously reported, 218.

Brown, Edward D.
Davenport, Miss Viola.
Kennedy, Miss Alice J.
Libby, John F.
Parker, Mrs. Anne B.
Remele, Geo. H.
Rymmes, Arthur C.
Weed, Wm. Henry.

CONVEYANCE — CRADOCK TO DAWSTIN.

[Suffolk Deeds, I., p. 11.]

Be it knowen vnto all men by these p^rsents that I Mathew: Crad[ ] Cittizen & Skiner of London doe heerby freelye and absolutely give an[ ] grant vnto Josias Dawstin of Mistick als Meadford in New England his Heires executo^rs administrato^rs and Assignes, firmly for ever, all that my mesuage or Tenement late in the Tenure or occupation of the saide Josias Dawstin or his assignes comonly called by the name of Dixes howse Together with sixe acres of plantinge ground beinge fenced in adioninge also seaven acres of Meadowe Comonly called by the name of Rock meadowe together with fire wood competent out of the Woods neere there soe as it be not p^riudiciall to the said Mathew his heires or assines in theire or either of theire pticular. and such wood as shalbe assigned by the said Mathew his heires or assignes and as may be most convenient for him in respect of carriage also sufficient wood out of the woods aforesd for buildinge & sustainge his dwelinge howse vpon the land aforsd. In Consideration of former service done to the sayd Mathew and of such as is hereafter expressed, namly that the saide Josias Dawstin shalbe liable in his person or by an Able workman to doe any service appertaninge to Husbandrye as the said Mathew his Executo^rs administrato[ ] or assignes shall require eight deyes also in a yeare Yearlye for ever namly Two deyes in May Two dayes in June Two dayes in July & two dayes in August, at such times as the sayd Matthew: or his assignes shall require it yet if at these dayes it be not precisly done so it be done w^th^in eight dayes after noe advantage to be taken, so farr forth as as the neglect be not willfull pvided, alwayes the sayd Mathew or his assignes pvide the said Josias or his assignes dyett vpon these sevorall eight deyes w^ch^ they worke for the said

Mathew or his assignes, also I give and grant vnto the said Josias Dawstin or his assignes Comomimge for Twelve Swine & two kine in the woods in Wittnesse wherof I have hervnt: put my hands & Seale dated twentye sixth day of Aprillo Anno: Dominj: 1641: & seaventeenth Yeare of the reigne of o^r^ Sovreine Lord King Charles Sealed & dilivered

Per me Mathew: Cradock

in p^r^sence of
John Style
& me Ric Stileman

NOTES.

THE papers by Miss Helen T. Wild, on "Medford in the War of the Revolution," and Mrs. Anna D. Hallowell, on the "Life and Work of Lydia Maria Child," were most admirable, and readers of the REGISTER will enjoy their perusal when published.

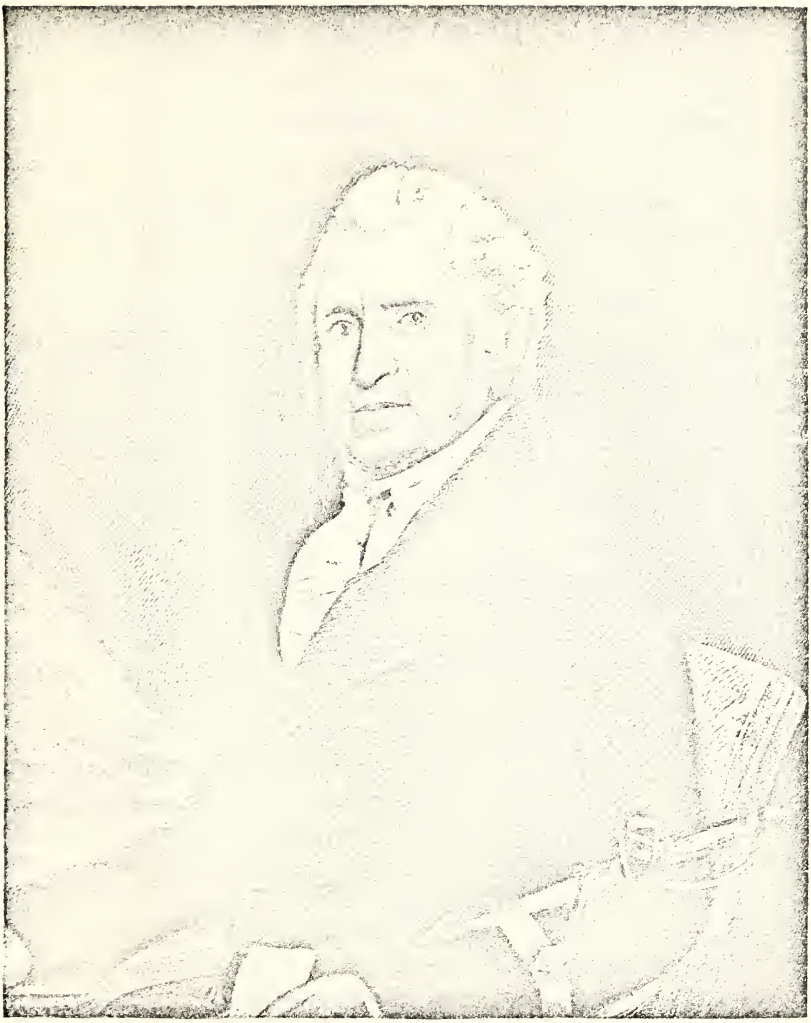
THE Membership Committee hopes to see a round *three hundred* names on our list by the end of this Society year. Help the committee by proposing names for membership in the Society.

THE Committee on Historic Sites is doing faithful and conscientious work.

THE Committee on Papers and Addresses is arranging for a series of interesting papers the coming fall and winter.

THE Committee on Library and Collections respectfully suggests that objects of historical interest and facts of historical value are quite often obtained in unexpected places. The summer vacation is a capital time for *exploring* and *digging*. Remember the Medford Historical Society.

SEND a copy of the July REGISTER to your friends in the country. They will enjoy reading it while swinging in the hammock, or resting in the shade of whispering pines and rustling oaks.



DR. JOHN BROOKS.

Born in Medford 1752; Died March 1, 1825. Governor of Massachusetts Seven Years.

The Medford Historical Register.

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THE EARLY PHYSICIANS OF MEDFORD.

By Charles M. Green, A.B., M.D., Boston.

[Read before The Medford Historical Society, April 14th, 1897.]

"DURING the early days of New England", says Dr. Samuel A. Green, in his Early Physicians of Groton, "there was no distinct class of men following the profession of medicine; but the practice was taken up in connection with some other calling. In every community either the minister, or the schoolmaster, or some skilled nurse was expected to act in cases of need; and for the most part such persons performed the duties now undertaken by the faculty". Even in later times, when men had adopted medicine as a profession, it was so little lucrative that "it was common for the doctor to eke out a livelihood by the practice of agriculture, or by some trade or business". These men practised their profession, although they had never received a medical degree, and in many cases had had but a scanty education. "Before the present century this was the rule throughout the country; and the instances were rare where practitioners could rightfully append M.D. to their names. As a class, however, they were men of shrewd sense, and acute observers; and their practice was attended with marked success. Perhaps they made a better use of their opportunities than we make to-day with our richly endowed medical schools and numerous hospitals."

This state of affairs is not difficult to understand when we consider the condition of medical education in our colonial days. Indeed, medical education, in our

modern acceptation, had scarcely begun in this country prior to the Revolution. Only two medical schools had been established, — the first in Philadelphia in 1765, the second in New York in 1768, — and only 13 medical degrees had been conferred by these two institutions when the war checked further progress. In 1775 there were between 3000 and 3500 practitioners of medicine in America: of this number probably not more than 400 had received the degree of M.D., and at least seven-eighths of these degrees had been conferred in Europe. At this time there were only three medical societies, — those of Philadelphia (1765), New Jersey (1766), and Delaware (1775); and there was only one permanent hospital, that of Pennsylvania, founded in 1752.

After the Revolution the subject of medical education began to attract attention in New England. In 1781 the Massachusetts Medical Society was formed, and in the following year a course of anatomical lectures was delivered in Harvard College. In 1783 a regular medical faculty was organized at Harvard, and in 1788 the first medical degree, that of M.B., was conferred on two graduates. Dartmouth College established a medical department in 1797.

By the year 1810 there were five medical schools in the country, — one in Philadelphia, one in New York, one at Harvard, one in Hanover, N.H., and one in Baltimore. In this year, 1810, the Medical Department of Harvard College was removed to Boston. During the first twenty-nine years of her medical teaching Harvard had conferred only fifty degrees, — an average of less than two a year; and it was doubtless realized that medicine could not be taught from books and by lectures alone, but that opportunities for clinical teaching must be provided, such as can be found only in cities and large towns. Even in Boston there was at this time no large hospital. The Boston Dispensary was founded in 1796, and doubtless afforded opportunities then, as it does now, for clinical observation and study.

There were small quarantine stations in Boston harbor, and there was also a military hospital, established in 1780 near the present site of the Massachusetts General Hospital, where Dr. John Warren taught anatomy and surgery. The Massachusetts General Hospital was incorporated in 1811, but was not opened for the reception of patients until ten years later. Nevertheless, even with these meagre clinical facilities, reinforced by opportunities afforded to their pupils by medical teachers in their private practice, medical education received a decided impetus; larger classes were graduated, and in 1811 Harvard began to confer the M.D. degree, instead of the M.B. previously given. From this time medical schools were established in various parts of the country; and to-day they number more than 150, while the number of medical graduates in each year exceeds by far the whole number of practitioners in the country in 1776.

It should be remembered that, in the early days of our country, comparatively few young men were financially able to avail themselves of the opportunities afforded in those times for a liberal education; still fewer could pursue their studies in Europe. It was thought necessary that intending ministers of the gospel should be liberally educated. But embryo physicians were usually apprenticed, and bound by indentures, to some medical man of repute; and they were expected to absorb their medical knowledge while driving with their chief in his chaise, by assisting him in surgical operations, and, in general, by "following his practice". In return for their board, teaching, and other benefits, these young men were expected to assist their master, care for his horse, "do the chores", and make themselves generally useful. They were trained to be keen observers, and were usually endowed with sound common sense and good judgment: although not always learned, they were generally wise; and few of our old New England towns have had reason to be ashamed of their village doctors. Let us

see how Medford fared in her early days in respect to her affairs medical.

In the town records Dr. Simon Tufts is called the "first physician of Medford"; but this was in 1724, nearly a hundred years after the settlement of the town. The medical history prior to Dr. Tufts's time is shrouded in mystery. It must be remembered, however, that the population of Medford was very small in the first century of her existence, quite too small to attract a physician of any note or education. In 1707 there were less than 250 inhabitants; and at the outbreak of the Revolution the population was less than 1000. And it is quite probable that in those early days in Medford, as in other towns, the minister did what he could to save bodies as well as souls. Doubtless in cases of dire necessity physicians were summoned from Boston or Charlestown; and doubtless, too, the good people relied largely on the *vis medicatrix naturæ*, which is often found quite efficacious even in these modern days. Brooks's History states that "the first physicians appear in Medford as early as 1720, Dr. Oliver Noyes and Dr. Ebenezer Nutting". This probably means that these names appear in the town records in 1720; but no further information is given concerning them, except that "Dr. Noyes died in 1721, and Dr. Nutting does not again appear in the records". If Medford's historian was unable to throw light on the lives of these two gentlemen, what can be hoped for from a modern historical student? After such search as the time at my disposal would allow, I have been able to find only this in regard to Ebenezer Nutting; — The town records of Groton give the birth of an Ebenezer Nutting in 1666, and of another of the same name in 1686; and, as no other Ebenezer Nutting appears in the records of the old towns of Massachusetts Bay Colony, it is quite probable that one of these two men became the Dr. Nutting that practised in Medford in the early years of the eighteenth century. Whether Dr. Nutting lived in Medford or

was merely called to the town when his services were required, I am unable to say; but probably the latter is the correct hypothesis.

Oliver Noyes was born in Boston in 1676, and was educated at Harvard College, receiving his A.B. degree in 1695. I regret to say that his genealogy is not positively known; but, after a careful examination of existing records, I am convinced that he was the grandson of the Rev. James Noyes, who embarked for New England in March, 1634, settled in Medford, where he preached, and where he was made a freeman in September of the same year. James Noyes shortly removed to Watertown, and in 1635 to Newbury, where he preached until his death in 1656. Oliver was the son of John Noyes, a Boston merchant, and a constable in 1674–75. Oliver Noyes married a sister of Governor Jonathan Belcher. He had a house and land near Fort Hill. He died of apoplexy in March, 1721, and was buried in the Granary Burying Ground, in the tomb next to that of Governor Belcher. Dr. Noyes was evidently a man of dignity and importance: he was a deputy to the General Court in 1714 and afterwards. There is no evidence that he ever lived in Medford, although it is known that he practised here.

The name of Dr. John Bishop appears in the tax bills of the town in 1726–27. He came to Medford from Bradford, September 20th, 1685, and died in 1739. I have been able to find no account of him in the collected medical biographies of eminent men, and probably he attained no especial distinction in the profession. There is no evidence that he received an academic training, and no evidence, indeed, that he practised medicine in Medford. It is of interest, however, to know that his son John married Abigail Tufts, daughter of Dr. Simon Tufts, senior. Possibly it was the influence of Dr. Bishop, who was somewhat the senior of Simon Tufts, that led the latter to take up the study of medicine.

Simon Tufts, who, according to Dr. James Thacher in his American Medical Biographies, was the "first regularly bred physician in Medford", descended from Peter Tufts, who was born in England in 1617, and came to America in 1638–40. Peter Tufts was one of the earliest and largest land-owners in Malden, where he became a freeman in 1665. He also bought land in Medford, which descended to his eldest son, commonly called Captain Peter Tufts, who was born in 1648. Captain Peter's first wife died July 15th, 1684; and in December of the same year he married Mary Cotton, daughter of the Rev. Seaborn Cotton by his wife Dorothy Bradstreet, who was the daughter of Governor Simon Bradstreet by his wife Ann Dudley, the poetess. Simon Tufts was the ninth issue of this marriage, and it will be seen that he came of good stock: he was born in Medford, January 31st, 1700. He was graduated at Harvard College in 1724 with the A.B. degree, and early applied himself to the study of medicine. With whom he studied does not appear; but probably, while still in Cambridge as an undergraduate, he entered upon his medical education, for he took up his practice in Medford directly after leaving college in 1724. In 1725 he built the house which some of us remember used to stand on the corner of Forest Street, where Tufts Hall now is. This house was subsequently occupied by Dr. Simon Tufts, junior, and by his son Turell Tufts: in its latter days the building became very much dilapidated and was finally taken down in 1867. This house and the adjacent town pump are indelibly impressed upon my memory. Here was the small shop where our elders were shaved, and where we boys bought candy, marbles, and toys; while in front were two tall button-wood trees, in one of which was a large hole, wherein we used to creep to escape the rain or in playing hide-and-seek.

Dr. Tufts applied himself to his life-work with fidelity and zeal, and soon became eminent in his profession.

He was universally beloved and respected. His practice was not confined to Medford, but extended to ten or twelve neighboring towns. He was often called to visit the sick at Harvard College, and his regard for his college led him, although not affluent himself, to decline fees from students that were in straitened circumstances. He married Abigail Smith, by whom he had four sons and three daughters, his eldest son, Simon, junior, succeeding him at his death. Among his medical pupils was one John Thomas, who subsequently became a general and commanded our forces at Dorchester Heights, and who afterwards died of small-pox while on service in Canada. In addition to his medical duties, the doctor found time to attend to various civil offices, both in Medford and in Middlesex County. He was a Justice of the Peace, a Special Justice, and Justice of the Quorum.

Dr. Tufts died on his birthday, January 31st, 1747, having just completed his forty-seventh year. He is said to have died of convulsive asthma. Such was the respect for his character that the public mourned his loss; and funeral sermons were preached in his honor not only in Medford, but in Boston, Cambridge, and Charlestown. Medford may well cherish the memory of her "first physician".

Dr. Simon Tufts, junior, was born in Medford, January 16th, 1727, and was graduated an A.B. at Harvard College in 1744. He was considered an excellent Latin and Greek scholar. While in college he boarded with a Mr. Foxcroft, the register of deeds in Middlesex County; and he was required to write in the office as a partial compensation. After leaving college Simon devoted himself to the study of medicine under the instruction of his father; but unhappily Dr. Tufts, senior, died some two years later, when the son was but twenty years of age. Simon hesitated as to what course to pursue, doubtless thinking himself too young and ill-prepared to take up his father's work; but encouraged

by friends, he bravely resolved to attempt to supply the vacancy occasioned by his father's death. Thacher says that "his mild and excellent character, and the great affection and respect which the people had for his father, acquired for him the general confidence; and he happily succeeded to the circle of practice, most of which he retained for forty years".

Dr. Tufts married Lucy Dudley, who died in 1768: the following year he married Elizabeth Hall, by whom he had several children; the eldest, Turell, born in 1770, was doubtless named after the Rev. Ebenezer Turell, at that time the aged minister of the town. Turell Tufts lived in the house built by his grandfather, and I believe died there in 1842.

Dr. Tufts was a man of uncommon skill and sound judgment. He was unceasing in medical research; and he adopted a method of treatment in what were called at the time putrid sore throat and slow fever, which was considered uncommonly successful. In 1765 the formation of the Massachusetts Medical Society was contemplated, and Dr. Tufts was invited to assist in its establishment. For some reason, however, these early plans came to naught, and the society was not instituted until 1781: in the following year he was made a fellow. His conversation was remarkably attractive and engaging; and he is said to have been a perfect Chesterfield in deportment. Brooks speaks of him as "that skilful physician and polished gentleman". Such was the public estimate of his probity and honor, that, on the settlement of his accounts after his death, his executor found that the fullest confidence was placed in their correctness, and the doctor's own books were all that was required for a satisfactory adjustment of his affairs. The Rev. Mr. Turell appointed him the executor of his will; and when Colonel Isaac Royal fled the country, at the outbreak of the Revolution, he made Dr. Tufts his agent in the care of his estates. In 1770 he was commissioned a Justice of the Peace; and for several years he was elected a member of the General Court.

In the year 1766 Dr. Tufts received into his family, as a medical apprentice, John Brooks, whose memoir will be given later. It will be remembered that Dr. Tufts, senior, had had, as a medical pupil, John Thomas: both Thomas and Brooks subsequently distinguished themselves as soldiers. "It is a little remarkable", says Thacher, "that the father and son, who were noted for their mild, domestic virtues, should educate two men that became generals in our Revolutionary War".

In 1782 Dr. Tufts fell from his horse and was seized with a hæmorrhage from the lungs; pulmonary disease terminated his valuable life, after a long illness, in 1786, at the age of fifty-nine. He was revered by a large community, and his death was considered a public loss. Both father and son were excellent examples of life and manners. On the family tombstone is this inscription:

Both eminent in their profession.
Just also towards men and devout towards God.

Dr. John Brooks, who succeeded his friend and teacher, Dr. Simon Tufts, junior, was born in Medford in May, 1752. His father was Captain Caleb Brooks, a well-to-do farmer, respected and beloved by his fellow-townsmen; his mother, Ruth Albree, who is said to have been a woman of personal beauty and of remarkable talents. John spent his boyhood in the usual occupations of the farm, and attended the town school, where he was taught Latin and Greek and elementary science. His mother was ambitious for her son, and sought the advice of her friend and physician, Dr. Tufts, as to the best way of promoting the boy's advancement. It resulted that at the age of fourteen young Brooks entered Dr. Tufts's family as a medical apprentice, and was bound to him by written indentures for seven years. No master was ever more faithful to his trust; and the pupil, by his amiable and excellent conduct, abundantly repaid his master's care. Dr. Tufts's training and the indefatigable industry of the pupil supplied the deficiencies arising from the want of a college education; and

Brooks's progress in medical science and in clinical observation was such as to secure his master's respect and approbation. It was during this period of his pupilage that Brooks gave evidence of that fondness and talent for military discipline, which was destined to play such an important part in his manhood. In his hours of relaxation he used to gather the village boys, who loved and admired him, and drill them in the exercises of the soldier. Dr. Tufts's yard was thus converted into a training field, and displayed in miniature all the "pride, pomp, and circumstance of glorious war". In this way Brooks acquired that erect and manly bearing for which he was so distinguished.

On the conclusion of his pupilage Brooks was advised by Dr. Tufts to establish himself in the town of Reading. He accordingly settled there, and in the following year, 1774, married Lucy Smith of that town. He was no sooner in a fair way to professional success, than the outbreak of the Revolution, arousing all his patriotic ardor and military instinct, called him, not without regret, from his chosen life-work. He already commanded a company of militia in Reading; and on that memorable 19th of April, when the alarm-guns told him that the British forces had marched towards Lexington and Concord, Doctor Brooks laid down the scalpel and took up the sword. It would be foreign to the purpose of this paper, and would far exceed my limit of time, adequately to relate Brooks's services to our country during the ensuing six years. Whether at Bunker Hill, at Dorchester Heights, on Long Island, or at White Plains, he was the high-minded gentleman, the skilful tactician and disciplinarian, the brave and efficient soldier. At Saratoga, where with fearless intrepidity he led his regiment to storm Burgoyne's intrenchments; at Valley Forge, where in common with the army he suffered those privations and hardships never to be forgotten by the true American, Colonel Brooks acquitted himself with a gallantry and heroism which

received the distinguished acknowledgments of Washington.

After the army was disbanded, Colonel Brooks returned to private life, rich in honor and in the esteem of his fellow-soldiers, but like them poor in purse. His old friend, Dr. Tufts, being in his declining years, was desirous of relinquishing his practice into the hands of his favorite pupil. Influenced by this wish, supplemented by the cordial invitation of his townsmen, Dr. Brooks took up again the practice of medicine, in Medford and the adjacent towns. "He opened a small office on Main Street, near the bridge." A little later we find him living in the easterly half of the house which now stands on High Street just west of the Unitarian Church. This house was built in 1750 by Jonathan Watson, and has since been known by his name, or by the name of the Swan House, after Capt. Samuel Swan, who bought the property in 1813, and who added the ell to each half. It was here that Brooks was honored with a visit by General Washington in October, 1789. It is stated on apparently reliable authority that Washington breakfasted with Brooks on this occasion, and that, at the request of Dr. Brooks's eldest son, Indian corn-cakes were served, as Washington was fond of them. In what is now called the Train House, next west of the Watson House, was the town school; and it is said that the children were brought to see General Washington, who addressed some complimentary remarks to them from the steps of the Watson House.

Just when Dr. Brooks began to live in the house on High Street where the Medford Savings Bank building now stands, I have been unable to learn. In this house he passed a good part of his life, and it was here that he died, March 1st, 1825. After his death it was occupied for a time by his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Alexander Scammell Brooks. In my childhood this house seemed to me a most imposing structure, and it was

with great regret that I saw it pulled down some ten years ago.

Dr. Brooks possessed to a high degree those qualities that raise a physician to eminence in his profession: of lofty character, his manners were dignified and courteous; he was kind, patient, and attentive; and his mind was well stored with scientific and practical knowledge. It is said that he was not so bold and daring as some in the administration of remedies, because his judgment and good sense prompted him rather to watch the operations of nature and not to interfere with her processes unless it were obvious that he could aid and support her. He was a true follower of the motto of the Massachusetts Medical Society, *Natura duce.* With Brooks, medicine was a liberal profession and not a trade; and he rose above all sordid considerations in his professional work. He considered the poor his best patients, for God was their paymaster, and treated them with conscientious skill and benevolence. "He was indeed", says Thacher, "the grace and ornament of the profession".

In 1786 Dr. Brooks was elected a fellow of the Massachusetts Medical Society, and in 1803 he was made a councillor: he filled this latter office until he became Governor of the Commonwealth. In 1808 Brooks was appointed to deliver the anniversary address at the annual meeting of the society, and he gave an able paper on pneumonia. On retiring from the chief magistracy in 1823, Dr. Brooks was accorded the highest honor in the gift of the medical profession, the presidency of the Massachusetts Medical Society. This office he held at the time of his death. A large number of the members of the society attended his funeral; and such was the respect and admiration with which he was regarded that the society held a memorial meeting, at which Dr. John Dixwell delivered an address[1] setting forth the character and

[1] This address is to be found in Brooks's History of Medford, and to it I am indebted for much information concerning Dr. Brooks's life.

career of this distinguished son of Medford. A meeting of the councillors of the society was held on the day following his death, at which it was "RESOLVED: that the councillors regard with deep sensibility the loss by death of the late President of the Society; and that they feel assured that they express the sentiments of the society, as they do their own, in stating that the society has derived honor from having at their head a man beloved in private life, justly respected in his profession, and distinguished in his State and country for the faithful and honorable performance of high military and civil duties". Dr. Brooks evinced the deep interest he felt in the society by bequeathing to it the whole of his medical library.

It has already been said that it was not Dr. Brooks's good fortune to receive an academic education; but his literary and professional acquirements did not pass unrecognized in the seats of learning. Yale College conferred on him the honorary A.M. in 1781. In 1787 Harvard gave him the same honor, this being the year in which Thomas Jefferson received from the same source his LL.D. In 1810 Harvard made Brooks an honorary M.D.; from 1815 to 1818 he was an overseer of the college; and in 1817 Harvard conferred on him her highest academic honor, the degree of LL.D. He was also made a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

But Dr. Brooks's mind was not so exclusively devoted to his profession as to prevent his taking a deep interest in the civil and military affairs of his town and State. From 1786 to 1791 he served as assessor in Medford; from 1786 to 1797, and again in 1803, as selectman; in 1803 he was also moderator of the town-meeting. In 1785–86 he was Medford's representative in the General Court, and in 1812 a member of the Governor's Council. He was for many years Major-General of the militia of Middlesex County; and he brought his division to a high state of military discipline. In 1787 he was a del-

egate to the State Convention for the adoption of the Federal Constitution, and was one of its most zealous advocates. After the establishment of the Federal Government he was appointed by President Washington United States Marshal for the district of Massachusetts, and subsequently Inspector of the Revenue. On the death of Washington, Brooks, who had been his companion in arms, and one of his favorite friends, was chosen to deliver his eulogy before the inhabitants of Medford. The Society of the Cincinnati considered General Brooks one of its most distinguished members; and he was elected to deliver the first oration before it, July 4th, 1787. On the death of General Lincoln, the first president of this society, he was chosen to succeed him. He was also president of the Washington Monument Association, the Bunker Hill Monument Association, and of the Bible Society of Massachusetts. When Caleb Strong became governor in 1812, he appointed Brooks his Adjutant General; and during that perilous epoch in our history, our second war with Great Britain, Brooks discharged his duty with prudence and discretion. In 1816, on the retirement of Governor Strong, General Brooks was elected to the chief magistracy. With characteristic modesty he shrank from assuming this responsibility; yet he discharged his important duties with signal ability, and for seven years presided with firmness, gentleness, and dignity over our beloved Commonwealth. He then retired to private life with the love and respect of a grateful people.

John Brooks's services and sacrifices to his country were by no means wholly personal. A glance at his family history will show the pathetic side of this heroic life, and stir the feelings of every human heart. On the 16th of June, 1775, his first child[1] was born: when, more than at such a time, would a father wish to be under his own roof-tree? Yet on this day and night Brooks was with his men, throwing up intrenchments

[1] This child, Lucy, lived to adult life and married the Rev. Mr. Stuart.

on Bunker Hill. His first son was born October 19th, 1781, the day of Cornwallis's surrender at Yorktown. This son, Alexander Scammell Brooks, entered Harvard College in 1798, but left before graduation to enter the army. He served in the war of 1812, and received a major's brevet for gallantry at the battle of Plattsburgh. In 1836 he was ordered with his command, being then lieutenant-colonel, to the Cherokee country in Florida, and on his way thither was killed by the explosion of his steamer's boilers: happily this was after his father's death. Governor Brooks's second son and namesake was born in 1783. He received his A.B. degree from Harvard College in 1805, and for a time studied medicine with his father; but his military tastes led him to join the navy as a lieutenant of marines, and he fell in the battle at Lake Erie in 1813.

I feel myself unable adequately to express my admiration for Dr. Brooks's life and character and sacrifices. His was a heroic and yet gentle soul, as that of the true physician should be. There is much in common to the true soldier and the true physician: the truest soldier must be the courteous gentleman; the true physician must combine in his character gentleness of manner, purity of heart, and unflinching courage. These qualities Brooks had, and his life is a bright example to our youth. Medford's historian says, "Never has there died among us a man so widely known, so highly honored, so truly beloved, so deeply lamented". His closing illness was neither painful nor long: at the end he said, "My case is beyond physicians. I have received my orders: I am ready to march". Well was it written on his tombstone, "He was a kind and skilful physician; a brave and prudent officer; a wise, firm, and impartial magistrate; a true patriot, a good citizen, and a faithful friend."

Dr. Luther Stearns was born in Lunenburg, February 17th, 1770. He was sixth in descent from Isaac Stearns, who on the 12th of April, 1630, embarked for America

in company with Governor Winthrop, Sir Richard Saltonstall, and Edward Garfield. Luther entered Dartmouth College in 1787, but completed his academic course at Harvard, where he was graduated in 1791, receiving his A.B. degree from both institutions. He studied medicine with Dr. John Brooks and also at Harvard College, where he was a tutor in 1795–96. He received the M.B. degree from Harvard in 1797, and in 1811, in common with the other earlier medical graduates, was given the M.D. degree. Dr. Stearns was the only one of Medford's early physicians to receive a medical degree in course, Dr. Brooks's degree being honorary merely. It is evident that Dr. Stearns spent much of his earlier professional life in teaching, for which he was well qualified. Dr. Brooks was very fond of Stearns, and relinquished to him his practice when he became governor in 1816. Dr. Stearns then joined the Massachusetts Medical Society. But, although of generous nature, mental breadth, and fine education, he lacked the heroic qualities : his sensitive temperament made surgery terrible to him in those pre-anæsthetic times, and he was forced to relinquish the profession for which his education so well fitted him. He then opened a classical school in the house fronting what is now known as Mystic Avenue; and he prepared many young men for college. Dr. Stearns was a kindly man, much honored for his many virtues : he died suddenly in 1820. It was his eldest son, George Luther Stearns, that bore such a noble part as an abolitionist and a friend of the negro.

Daniel Swan was born in Charlestown, February 28th, 1781. In his childhood he had a fall, which made him lame for life; and a severe attack of small-pox greatly impaired the health of his early years. He received an academic training at Harvard College, taking his A.B. degree in the class of 1803; and soon after he was engaged to teach the only public school for boys in Medford, where his father was then living.

DR. DANIEL SWAN.

After a few years he determined to study medicine, and became the pupil of Dr. John Brooks, improving all the advantages to be derived from association with that distinguished physician. In 1808 he settled in Brighton, where he practised for eight years with general acceptance and success. In 1812 he joined the Massachusetts Medical Society. In 1816, when Dr. Brooks became Governor of the Commonwealth, and in view of Dr. Stearns's early retirement, the inhabitants of Medford invited Dr. Swan to become Dr. Brooks's successor. In those days, physicians did not establish themselves unsolicited, as in the present time: communities selected their physicians, as they did their ministers, and invited their services. Thus it was that Dr. Swan succeeded to the worthy line of his predecessors. In 1821 he married Miss Sarah Preston, who, on her father's death, brought him a large fortune. This enabled him to enter upon that liberal and systematic benevolence, for which he has been so long and so gratefully remembered. The house in which Dr. Swan passed most of his life in Medford was on High Street, diagonally opposite that now occupied by Dr. Bemis: it was removed a few years ago, when Governor's Avenue was built.

Early in Dr. Swan's career his attention was attracted to the system of practice known as homœopathy, and he was captivated by it. He joined the Massachusetts Homœopathic Society, but remained a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society until he voluntarily retired in 1860. How well do I remember the personality of this good and genial man; and the various wraps and the skullcap, which the delicate state of his health required him to wear in winter weather. I loved the man with a boyish love. To me he was the personification of all that was great and good, and I shall never forget his early kindnesses to me. It was he who always made me at home when I went to his house; and it was he, I believe, who inspired me with

a desire to study medicine by presenting me with countless boxes and phials after I had swallowed their harmless contents.

Although enjoying a fair degree of health after reaching manhood, Dr. Swan was never robust; and in 1839 Dr. Charles Vose Bemis, who had taken his A.B. at Harvard in 1835, and had just received his doctorate of medicine, was invited to Medford to do the surgical practice and bear the brunt of professional work. Dr. Swan still continued, however, to do a large amount of practice, especially among the poor; and even when no longer able to go out, he prescribed for his old patients at his house. He died in 1864, honored and beloved by his many patients, and by the numerous recipients of his generous charity.

It is not for me to speak in this paper of the living, and I therefore make no comment on the more than fifty years of practice in this town by Dr. Swan's successor. As it is, I have covered a period of more than 225 years in the town's medical history. And when we look back upon the life and public labors of Simon Tufts, father and son, John Brooks, and Daniel Swan, we may well congratulate ourselves that our town has been so ably, honorably, and successfully served.

In the preparation of this paper I have consulted Dr. Samuel A. Green's Early Physicians of Groton; Dr. James Thacher's American Medical Biographies or Memoirs of Eminent Physicians, published in 1828; The Memorial History of Boston; Brooks's History of Medford; and other town histories, encyclopedias, and records.

To Mr. James Atkins Noyes, of Cambridge, I am indebted for the genealogy of Dr. Oliver Noyes. Dr. Charles V. Bemis has aided me very materially by his reminiscences of the medical history of Medford; and a lady, who does not wish her name mentioned, has assisted me in looking up references and conducting correspondence.

MAPS OF MEDFORD AT DIFFERENT PERIODS.[1]

By William Cushing Wait.

IT is all but impossible to overestimate the value of maps, charts, and plans to the student of history. To attempt to understand the history of any locality without studying every discoverable map and plan that deals with the locality would be as foolish as to study anatomy without making dissections, or to claim a knowledge of painting without having an appreciation of color.

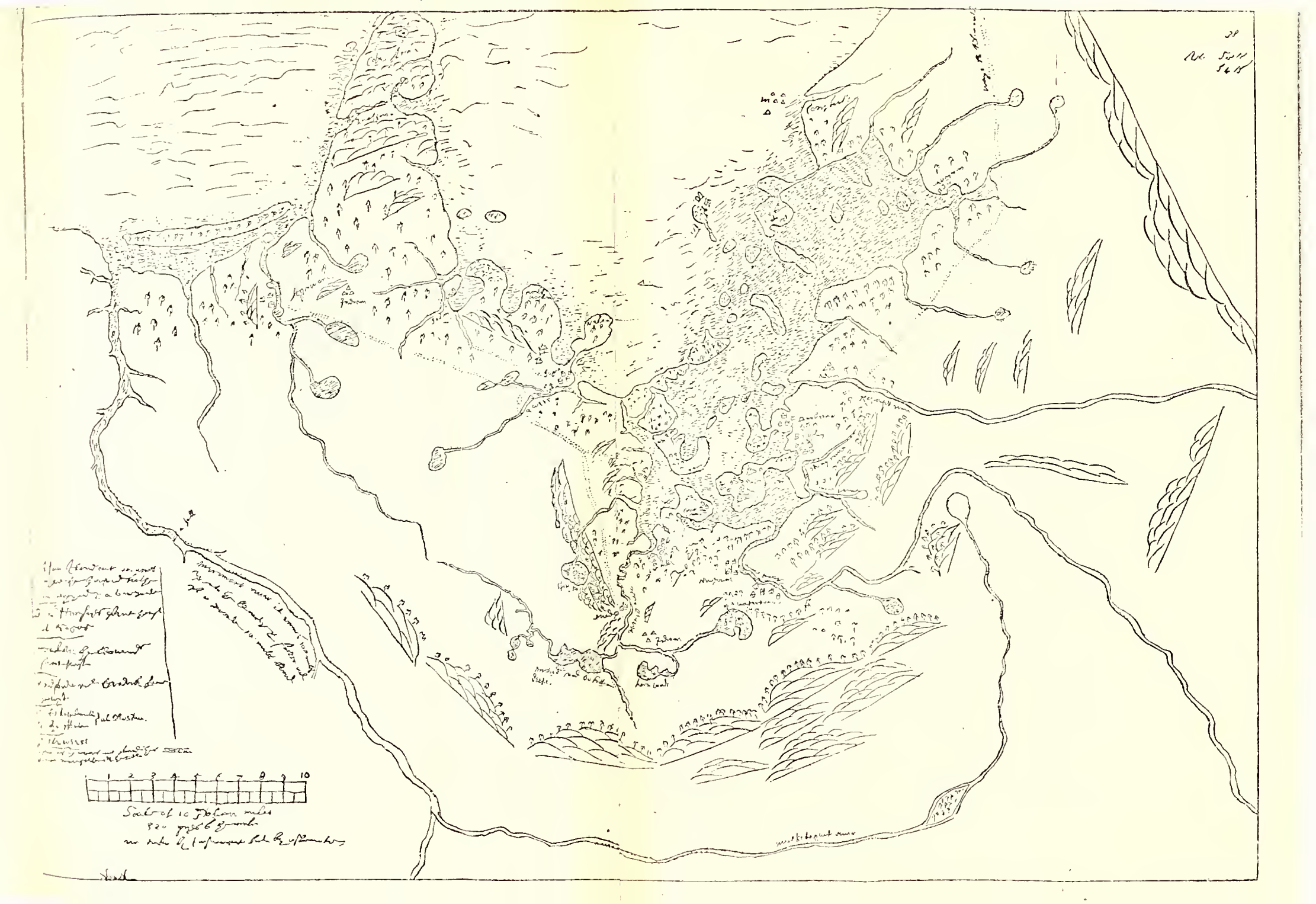
Contemporary maps are the best commentary on contemporary history. No searcher for historic truth can disregard them, and no historical work is complete or even moderately satisfactory without them.

Two histories of Medford have been published. Neither offers a map of Medford at any period. This is sufficient comment on the value of the works. Yet there are in existence maps and plans of the whole or parts of Medford which are full of importance to any one with the slightest interest in Medford history.

It is the object of this article to place before you the maps which deal with Medford down to about 1855; not every map which has a dot upon it marked "Medford," or which indicates the existence of such a place while devoting itself to other and more important geographical matters; but such maps as deal especially with our town or parts of it.

When I consented to prepare this article I intended to examine the State archives; the Registry of Deeds and the County Records of Middlesex County; the State, Boston, and Harvard College libraries; the "Memorial History of Boston;" the "Narrative and Critical History of America;" and all other probable sources of information, for maps, charts, and plans. I have not been able

[1] Read before the Medford Historical Society.



The upper stream of the Malden river must have been larger than we now know it.

This map is interesting as evidence of Medford's existence and importance before 1633.

In 1884 a map was found by Mr. Henry F. Waters in the British Museum among the Sloane manuscripts, numbered "Add: 5415, G. 3." (I don't know what this means, but it is this map's name, and so I give it.) It is without date, but it is explained by marginal notes in Governor Winthrop's own hand, and additions made by him to legends upon it. It is believed to have been made somewhere about 1633. A copy is in the Harvard College Library, and a reduced copy is given in the "Narrative and Critical History of America," Vol. III., p. 381.

This map is of intense interest to us. The name "Meadford" is placed near the ford. No bridge is indicated. The course of the Mystic is given with substantial accuracy. Spot pond is shown among its range of hills, with its island and the stream flowing from it. The Mystic ponds are shown, and are stated to be "60 fathoms deepe." Like Wood's map, it calls the present Spy pond "Horne pond." This is the more surprising as Horn pond mountain is shown, though not named. A road is indicated leading to the ford beginning at "Agawam," now Ipswich, and following substantially the course of Salem street as it passes through Medford. Governor Winthrop's Ten Hills farm, with its buildings, is shown, though no road is indicated from the ford to Charlestown.

The most important part of the map to us in Medford is the house sketched near the ford, and the word "Meadford," with Governor Winthrop's reference to it: "Meadford: Mr. Cradock ferme [farm] house." No house is indicated near the location of the building we have so long boasted as the Cradock house, built in 1634. It is true this map is earlier than 1634, but if Governor Cradock's farmhouse was near the ford

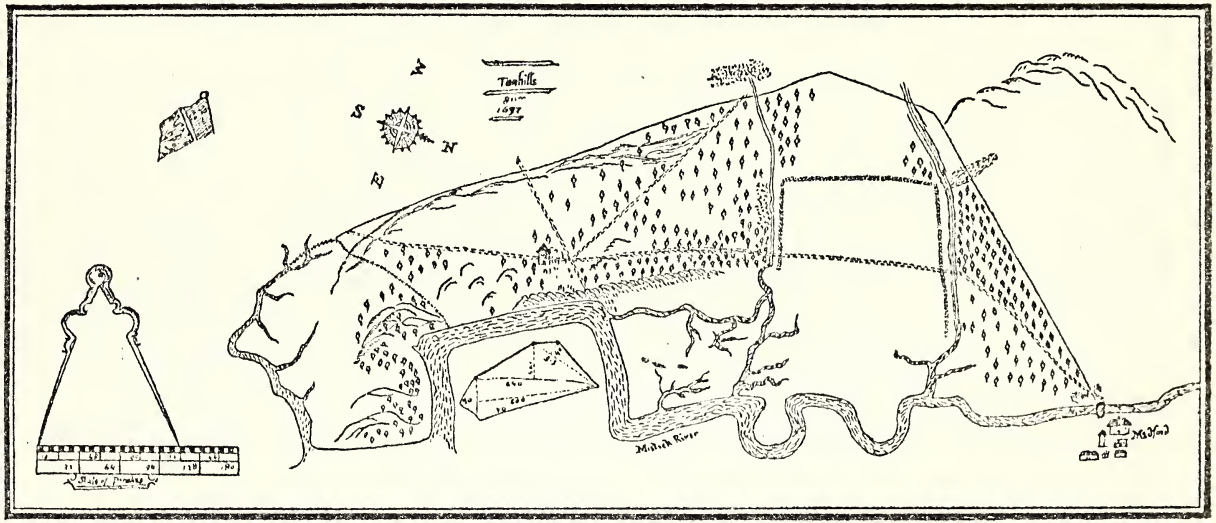
in 1633 it is probable no change was made the next year.

On March 4, 1634 (1635), Mathew Cradock was granted "all the ground as well upland as meadow, lying and being betwixt the land of Mr. Nowell and Mr. Wilson on the east, and the partition betwixt Mystick ponds on the west, bounded with Mistick River on the South and the Rocks on the north." This old map shows the rocks and the river, and indicates very well what the people thought they were granting. The indication of Pasture hill and the highlands near the ponds shows perhaps why, March 3, 1635 (1636), it was ordered that Mr. Cradock's band "shall extend a mile into the country from the river side in all places."

In October, 1637, Governor Winthrop had a plan made of his Ten Hills farm. A heliotype of this plan is given in the "Memorial History of Boston," Vol. I., p. 114. Ten Hills then included nearly all of Medford south of the river. The course of the river is given very accurately. One is surprised at the size of the brooks which then came into it from the south. Winter brook still flows; but the large stream which flowed into the river opposite Foster's wharf has disappeared from sight save the little trickle showing in the yard of Mr. Thomas on Main street. Its old course is still preserved by an underground drain.

This plan shows a *bridge* across the river near the location of the present Cradock bridge, and a cluster of six buildings north of the bridge marked "Meadford." The hills from which the farm took its name are indicated. Most of the land is wooded, though a large fenced clearing is shown between the two brooks. The road from the bridge to Charlestown running by the governor's house and out-buildings is shown; and roads leading from it near the house over Winter hill and south-east toward Cambridge are also indicated.

This plan also is important with reference to its evidence in regard to the Cradock house. Though



TEN HILLS FARM, 1637.

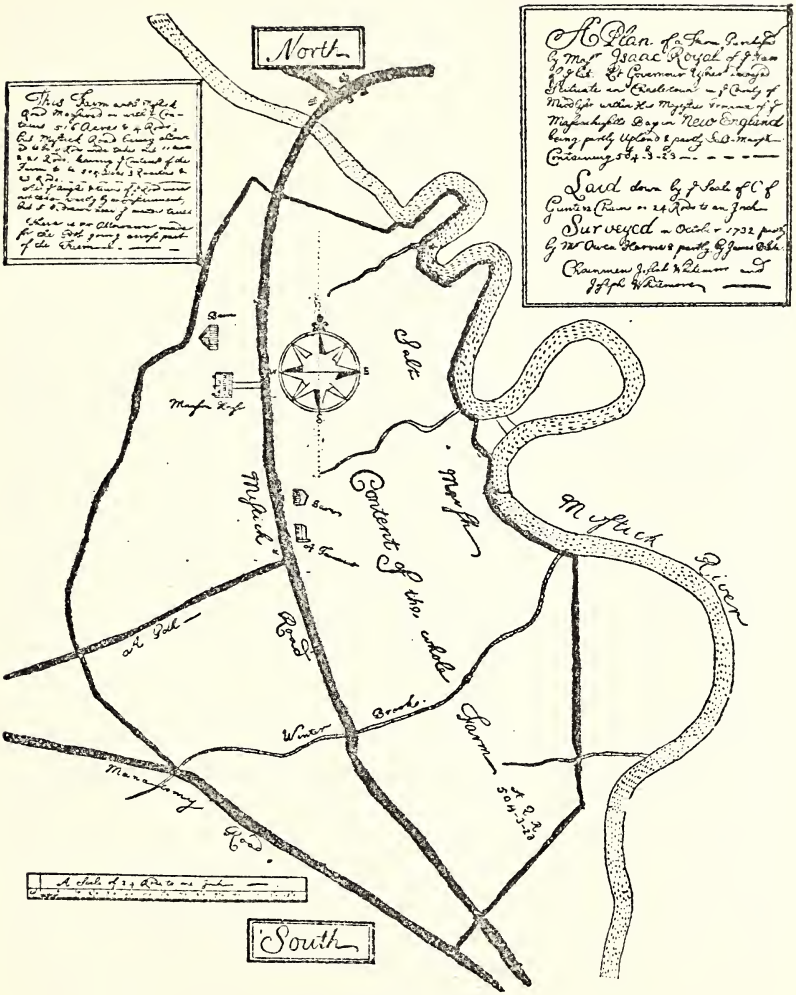
not on Governor Winthrop's land, it is hard to believe so magnificent a building would have failed to be indicated if it existed, especially when the buildings at the ford are shown carefully, though they were not on Winthrop's land. The plan shows the land on which the present Cradock house stands. Its absence is disquieting. Fine brick structures belonging to a man so important as Cradock are not likely to be overlooked, particularly in 1637, when any structure was noteworthy.

The first map cut in the colony was the "Map of New England," which was issued with William Hubbard's "Narrative of the Troubles in New England," in 1677. The copy in the State archives is indexed as *Misc. Maps, Vol.* 59, *p.* 6. Medford is not indicated upon the map, which is referred to here for the sake of noting the omission. Apparently Medford had declined in relative importance, for Woburn is shown, though not set off from Charlestown till 1642.

In 1693 a "*Carte de Baston*" was made by Franquelin for M. de la Touche. A reduced fac-simile from a tracing is given in "Memorial History of Boston," Vol. II., p. 51. This map shows the coast line, rivers, and roads in the neighborhood of Boston. It does not show Medford, the road to Medford from Charlestown, or the road from the Cradock bridge through Malden to the eastern and northern towns.

This map I refer to also for its negative testimony. It indicates that the road through Medford was losing in importance.

In 1732 the heirs of John Usher, once lieutenant-governor of New Hampshire, conveyed his fine house and large estate in what was then Charlestown, but is now Medford, to Major Isaac Royal. A plan of the premises accompanied the deed, and is recorded with the *Middlesex South District Deeds, Book* 33, *page* 496. The surveys were made "in October, 1732, partly by Mr. Owen Harris and partly by James Blake,"



THE ROYAL FARM.

and the plan assures us the chainmen were Josiah Whittemore and Joseph Whittemore. The plan states "This Farm with Mistick Road measured in with it contains 516 acres & 4 Rods; but Mistick Road being allowed to be 4 Rods wide takes out 11 acres and 21 Rods, leaving y^e^ Contents of the Farm to be 504 Acres 3 quarters & 23 Rods. . . . All y^e^ angles & turns of y^e^ road were not taken exactly by an Instrument, but it is drawn near y^e^ matter true.

"There is no Allowance made for the path going across part of the Farm."

This plan is of much interest. It shows approximately the course of our present Main street, from the square nearly to the junction with Broadway, or, as the plan has it, "Manatomy road," at the top of Winter hill. The "Path" leading from the "Mistick Road" toward the Manatomy road is the present Harvard street. Winter brook is shown, and three smaller streams flowing into the river. The course of the river is carefully drawn. Two lines appear on the plan to-day running across the "Labor-in-vain" point, indicating the location of the present cut-off. These are in a different ink from that of the plan, and do not belong on the original, for the cut-off was not made until more than thirty years after 1732.

The "Mansion House" is shown facing the street, which is reached by a broad pathway. The barn is northwest of the house, near the corner of the present Royal street and College avenue. A tenement and barn are shown near the present site of the Mystic house. Four buildings are shown at Medford square, which was then formed by the junction of the roads we know as Main, High, and Salem streets. Forest and Ship streets were far in the future.

The map next in point of time is the most important, in some respects, of all I found.

In December, 1753, a petition was presented to the General Court by a committee consisting of Samuel

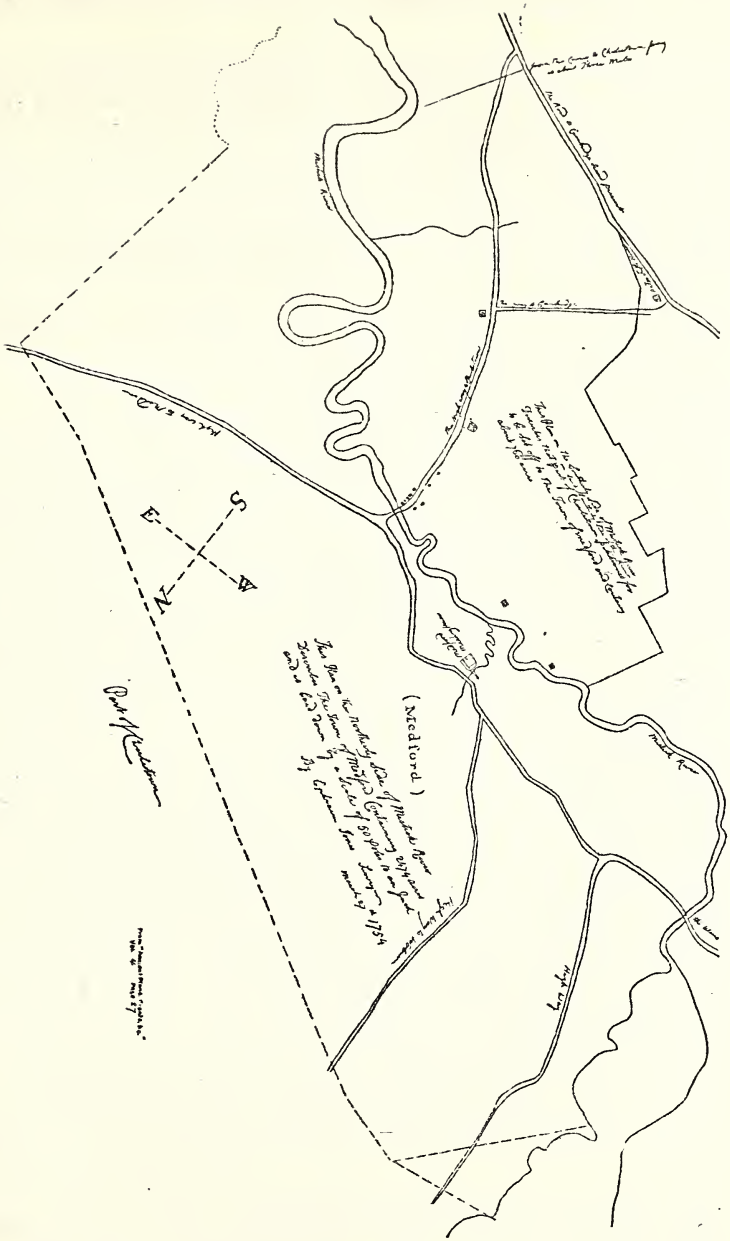
Brooks, Ebenezer Brooks, L. Pool, Joseph Tufts, and Stephen Hall, asking that parts of Charlestown be set off to Medford. One of the reasons given was the small size of the town, 2,000 acres. A plan was prepared to assist the Legislature, and this plan, which bears date March 17, 1754, and was made by Ephraim Jones, surveyor, is in the State archives — *Misc. Maps, Vol.* 13, *p.* 12.

It is on dark slate-colored paper, in rusty ink. It shows "Meadford" as it existed in 1754, probably with considerable accuracy. Beyond question, the territory was small. Medford lay between the river on the south, a line following partly Creek Head creek and then running directly north almost to the road to Malden on the east, Charlestown on the north, and the Mystic ponds on the west, — a strip from a mile to a mile and a half wide.

The course of the river is shown from a point near the present Middlesex-avenue bridge to the ponds. All the lower and more than half the upper Mystic pond is shown. In 1754 it was all one pond with a shallow "partings" where, a century later, Charlestown built the dam which separated the waters.

The map bears two legends; one on the part north of the river reads: "This plan on the Northerly side of Mistick River describes the Toun of Medford Containing 2,474 acres and is laid down by a scale of 50 Poles to an Inch. By Ephraim Jones, Surveyor, March 17, 1754." The other, on the part south of the river, reads: "This Plan on the Southerly Side of Mistick River Describes that part of Charlestown on said southerly side of the river petitioned for to be Set off to the Town of Medford and contains about 760 acres."

The roads shown are "the high road to Charlestown" (Main street), "the road to Cambridge second precinct" (Broadway), "the highway to Cambridge" (Harvard street), on the south side of the river; and on the north



MEDFORD IN 1754.

side, "Highway to Malden" (Salem street), the present High street, which bears no legend, "highway to Woburn" (Woburn and part of Winthrop street), and "Highway," the present Grove street. These are the oldest of our present roads. It is worth noticing that Grove street, supposed by so many to be the private road of the Brooks family, is, in fact, one of our oldest public highways.

Bridges are shown at "The Ware" and at the Cradock crossing. The fact that no cut-off is shown at the "Labor-in-vain" shows that the lines on the Royal plan of 1732 do not belong there. It is interesting to see that no island exists opposite the Centre school and the foot of Manning street.

Meeting-house brook is wriggled across the map to aid in fixing the position of "Medford Meeting-house," which is shown prominently close to the brook and a little south of High street, not far from Bean's greenhouse of to-day.

No other building in the then Medford is shown. The buildings in the part of Charlestown Medford asked for are indicated with care. The only one dignified by a legend is the house of Doctor Tufts at the junction of the roads to Cambridge and to Cambridge Second Precinct, that is, opposite the site of the Old Powder House. On the easterly side of the high road to Charlestown five houses are shown close to the Cradock bridge, and a large house near the site of the present Mystic house, opposite the end of the road to Cambridge. On the westerly side of the road appear the Royal house and four buildings near the bridge. Two large houses are shown on the south bank of the river across from the meeting-house, near the present North and Winthrop streets, which once were rangeways of Charlestown.

The plan shows Winter brook, and for its only remaining bit of information tells us that from the corner of the present Broadway and Main street "to

Charlestown ferry is about three miles." Boston was not reached by bridge in those days.

The petition, as we all know, was granted, and Medford was given all of Charlestown lying between Stoneham, Woburn, Malden, Mr. Gardner's farm in the present Winchester, and the old line of Medford on the north, and the irregularly bounded tract shown on the old plan on the south. It may prove valuable to have the description of this southerly boundary. The tract set off was bounded "Northerly with Mystick or Medford River, Westerly with the West bounds of Mr. Smith's Farm, Southerly with the Southerly bounds of Mr. Smith's, Mr. James Tufts, and Mr. Jonathan Tufts (dec^{d}) Farms: and then running from the Southeasterly corner of said Jonathan Tufts Farm Eastward streight to the Westerly side of Colon^{l} Royall's Farm, again Westerly with Westerly bounds of Colonel Royall's Farm, again Southerly with its Southerly bounds, and then running from the Southeasterly corner thereof Eastward Streight to Medford River."

Although this plan shows no road leading to Stoneham, I feel sure such a way existed in 1754. A deed in my possession, granting the premises on Fulton street where, later, Sarah Bradlee Fulton lived, describes them as "Lying and being in Charleston aforesaid on the north side of Medford River, . . . bounded Westerly on y^{e} land of Samuel page Easterly on *the High way leading from Medford to Stoneham*," etc.

This deed bears date March 1, 1737–8, was acknowledged before Simon Tufts April 14, 1738, and was recorded Jan. 24, 1739, with *Middlesex Deeds*, *Book* 40, *page* 424.

What other roads the plan omits I cannot say. There certainly were rangeways in Charlestown which are not laid down upon it.

There are probably many plans of Revolutionary times which show Medford in connection with the territory about Boston; but I came upon none properly to

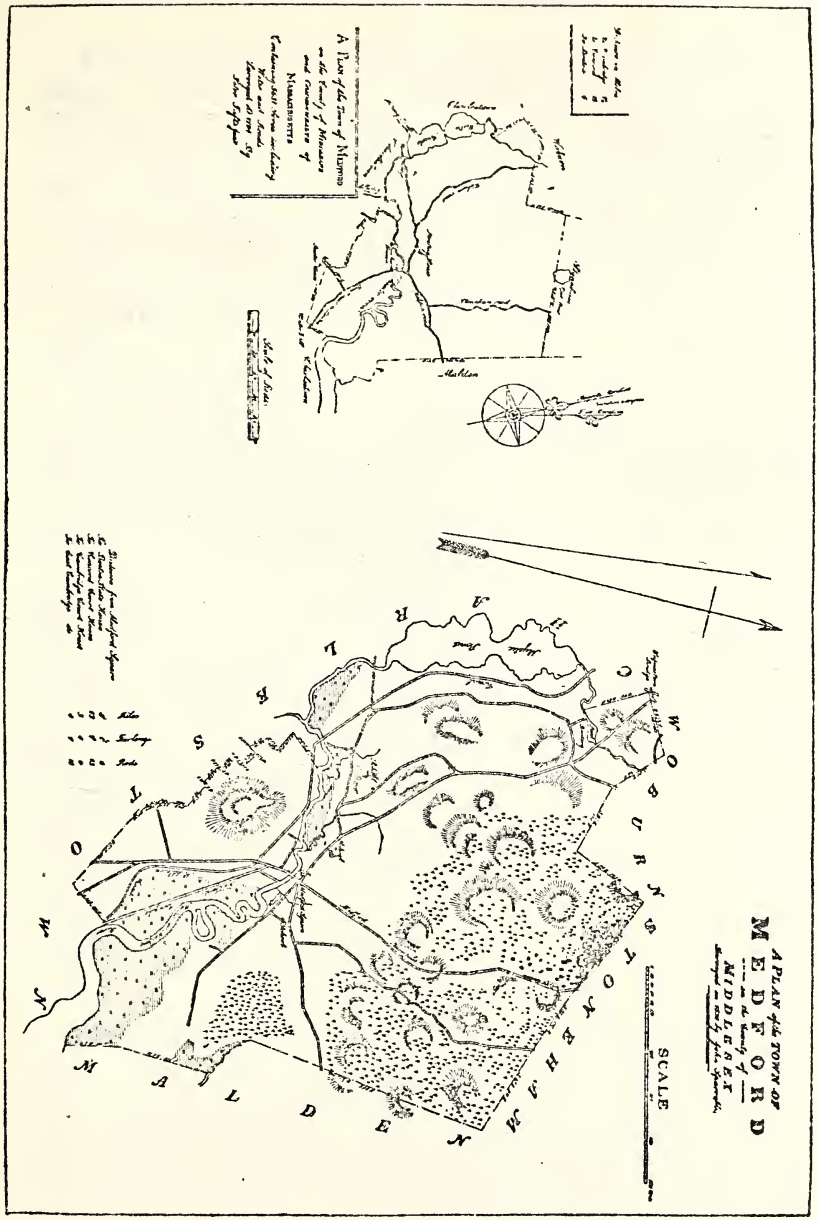
be treated in this article. A "*Carte Du Port et Havre De Boston*," prepared in 1776 for the French king (in the State archives as *French Maps, Vol.* 2, *p.* 62.), shows a little of Medford's territory. It calls our river the Malden. This is a beautiful map which shows the positions of the American armies about Boston.

"The Memorial History of Boston," III., p. vi., shows a "Plan of Boston in New England with its Environs, including Milton, Dorchester, Roxbury, Brookline, Cambridge, Medford, Charlestown, Parts of Malden and Chelsea, with the Military Works constructed in those places in the years 1775 and 1776." This was made by Henry Pelham in 1775 and 1776, and published at London in 1777. The work is carefully done, though I do not believe it perfect. It shows fairly well the part of Medford south of the river; and in its upper right-hand corner a small part of the centre. The locations of houses, trees, fortifications, etc., are indicated. The plan of the centre of Medford is a work of imagination. Some streets are shown there which never existed. "Gen^{l}. Royall's" house is dignified with a legend. I should not greatly trust this map.

The next map of Medford I find in the State archives is *Maps of* 1794, *Vol.* 1, *p.* 16.

Under a resolve of the General Court in 1794, all the towns of the Commonwealth were required to file with the Secretary of the Commonwealth accurate plans of their territory. Medford complied with this order, and filed a plan made in 1794 by Peter Tufts, Jr. This is the first map which looks familiar. In it Medford presents the shape known to most of us, though not precisely the present bounds. The town was bounded by Stoneham, Malden, Charlestown, and Woburn, and contained 5,631 acres.

Three buildings are shown: The "Meeting House," where the Unitarian church stands to-day; "Blanchard's Tavern," the present Medford House; and the Old Powder House.



PLAN OF TOWN OF MEDFORD.

The roads laid down are High street, still without a name, "Woburn road" (Woburn street and part of Winthrop street), "Malden road" (Salem street), "Stoneham road" (Fulton street), "Greatroad to Boston" (Main street), "Cambridge road" (Harvard street), "Charlestown road" (Broadway).

Why the highway now Grove street is not indicated is hard to say. It certainly existed.

"Ellwive river" and "Ware bridge" show familiar places.

The cut-off at "Labor-in-vain" has been made.

The map seems to be carefully made, but it does not indicate topography at all, and does not show any of the brooks of the town.

The State archives have a number of maps and plans relating to Medford after 1794.

Misc. Maps, Vol. 63, *p.* 5, shows a plan of the road from Medford to Charlestown Neck. It was made by Peter Tufts, Jr., and is dated June 7, 1802. It is purely a plan of the road, showing nothing but its lines.

Misc. Maps, Vol. 64, *p.* 3, is a plan of bridge and lock for connecting the Middlesex canal with the river. It was made in 1804.

Misc. Maps, Vol. 64, *p.* 4, is a plan of the Middlesex canal, showing its connections with New Hampshire. It was made in 1805, though the New Hampshire portion is of 1784.

Misc. Maps, Vol. 48, *p.* 10, is a beautiful map of Boston and vicinity, made about 1820 by John P. Hales. The map of Medford is very interesting. Many new features appear. There has been a wonderful change since 1794. The Middlesex canal winds through the town. Two new turnpikes bring it into closer connection with the world — the "Medford turnpike," from Charlestown to Medford (now Mystic avenue), and the "Andover turnpike" (now Forest street), from the square to Stoneham. Medford street has been built to afford a more direct road to East Cambridge, though not

yet given its name. Ship street, Cross street, South street to the vicinity of Truro avenue, and a way leading to the canal from the end of this new street have been built. The highway, now Grove street, reappears in this map.

Many houses are shown, and in numerous cases the occupant's name is given. Thus the map indicates "the seat of his Excellency, Gov^r. Brooks," of Hon. Timothy Bigelow, of P. C. Brooks, Esq., of Mrs. Gray. It shows the location of a shipyard; of the academy on the Andover turnpike (Mr. C. J. Pike's house?); "Rev. Dr. Osgood's Meeting house;" a factory at Bacon's pond; "Symmes' Corner;" the "Royal Tidd Farm." It indicates the mile-posts on the turnpike.

The map undertakes to show topographical features, and succeeds fairly well with the hills and marshes; but the streams are amazing. Meeting-house brook, as laid down, is a combination of the headwaters of Gravelly creek, of the real Meeting-house brook, and of the brook which flows into the river near the stone arch of the railroad. The combination is bewildering. In return for this feat Mr. Hales asks us to let him off without giving anything else of Medford's watercourses, save a very inadequate indication of the lower part of Gravelly creek.

In 1830 the General Court made an order similar to that of 1794; and again Medford obeyed. This time the plan was made by John Sparrell. In the archives it is known as *Maps of* 1830, *Vol.* 3, *p.* 10.

The map is hardly as good as Hales', but it shows further advances made by the town. Purchase street (now North Winthrop) shortens the distance to Woburn, and makes the old Woburn road subsidiary. Canal street runs from High street down to the canal aqueduct across the river. The present Boston-avenue bridge rests on the piers of this aqueduct. A short way runs from Ship street to a shipyard; a new road has been built from Symmes' corner to Hufmaster's bridge over the canal

(the present Bacon street in Winchester); and a road put in from the present Grove street to the factory at Bacon's pond. "Dead Man's alley" has come into existence. Mr. Sparrell indicates topography, and is, like Mr. Hales, unwilling to investigate the brooks thoroughly. He separates Mr. Hales' conglomerate brook into its proper component parts, but beyond showing their connection with the river contents himself with very inadequate squirms to indicate their courses.

Medford now shows she has schools. School-houses on Cross street, on Woburn street, and back of the Unitarian church are laid down. A new church is indicated; two church buildings, the old church and the present abandoned Catholic structure, are shown. The factory at Bacon's, two buildings by the canal, the Medford House, and one other building near the Cradock bridge show important buildings.

The surrounding towns, as in 1794, are Woburn, Stoneham, Malden, and Charlestown. Such young things as Somerville and Winchester are not yet born.

Between 1830 and 1855, when Walling's map was made, no map of Medford appeared, but the Registry of Deeds for Middlesex County contains numerous plans, which are of assistance to the student and ought to be referred to here. I add a list with comments, arranged substantially in order of date:

1827, *June* 25, *Book* 275, *End.* Bacon's factories, pond, dam, etc.

1839, *Aug.* 5, *Book* 386, *End.* Middlesex canal to Baker; shows Canal bridge on Main street.

Prior to 1800 I find but five plans of Medford estates recorded. About 1845 a "boom" in land began, and plans laying out estates in lots for sale began to flow into the registry.

The most important of these, since it covers the largest territory and is the basis of the existing arrangement of streets and house lots in West Medford, is

1845, *May* 1, *Plan Book* 1, *p.* 54. Plan of lands of Hastings & Teel, laying out West Medford from Woburn street to the railroad.

1844, *Dec.* 14, *Plan Book* 1, *p.* 37, is an earlier plan of part of the above territory.

1844, *Book* 1601, *End.* Division of Tufts estate, Salem and Forest streets.

1845, *Book* 474, *End.* House lots, Salem, Chaplin (Park) streets, etc.

——*Plan Book* 2, *p.* 60. Part of above.

1847, *Aug.* 24, *Plan Book* 24, *p.* 30. Land, Church street, etc.

1847, *Sept.* 14, *Plan Book* 2, *p.* 43. Brooks place, Hancock and Main streets, and canal.

1849, *July* 10, *Plan Book* 3, *p.* 26. Lands of Edgeworth company.

1850, *August*, *Plan Book* 5, *p.* 8. Land of Brooks at West Medford, laying out territory between railroad and river. This is very interesting. It includes two small parks. It makes no provision for a bridge on Harvard avenue (Usher's bridge).

1853, *May*, *Plan Book* 5, *p.* 17. Land of Hall and Dow at Glenwood, Ship, Hall, Linden, and Locust streets.

1853, *September*, *Book* 667, *p.* 138. Land conveyed by Blanchard to Porter, the site of our rooms.

1853, *Plan Book* 11, *p.* 13. Sagamore vale, Bishop estate, Ashland street, etc.

1855, *May* 10, *Plan Book* 6, *p.* 3. Wellington farm.

1855, *July* 2, *Book* 717, *p.* 136. Hall farm, Wellington.

1855, *October*, *Plan Book* 8, *p.* 1. T. P. Smith estate, West Medford. This is the present laying out of the territory west of the railroad. The map shows Usher's bridge, the seminary, and other buildings.

1855, *Plan Book* 8, *p.* 38. Land of Gilbert Lincoln, Canal street, West Medford.

1855, *Plan Book* 7, *p.* 33. Land of P. C. Hall, off Purchase street. "Old road now called Emperor street." A laying out with royal names of land near the old road leading east from North Winthrop street just south of "Sugar Loaf Hill."

1855, *Plan Book* 8, *p.* 26. The above plan in rough form.

——*Plan Book* 12, *p.* 41. Land of Charles Tufts, on Winter hill, in Medford and Somerville.

1857, *Plan Book* 8, *p.* 9. Land of Edgeworth company.

A fine plan of the old Middlesex canal is in the engineer's office of the Boston & Maine Railroad.[1]

In 1855 the selectmen had a careful plan of the town prepared by H. T. Walling. This plan in various forms is familiar to us all. It shows Medford in substantially its present boundaries. Winchester had diminished Medford's territory at the northwest when Walling prepared his plan. Since its publication a strip has been taken away and given to Malden.

The Registry of Deeds for Middlesex South District contains abundance of plans of lots in Medford made since 1857. My search, however, stops practically at 1855.

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[1] See article on "Middlesex Canal" in Vol. I., No. 2, of the REGISTER.

GOVERNOR CRADOCK'S PLANTATION.[1]

By Walter H. Cushing.

THE Cradocks were an old Staffordshire family whose genealogy can be traced to the middle of the fifteenth century. Matthew Cradock, Sr., father of Governor Cradock, was born in 1563.[2] In the latter part of the sixteenth century, therefore, though the exact date is unknown, at about the time when wind and wave and hardy British sailors were completing the wreck of the Spanish Armada, and thus clearing the way for English colonization in the New World, was born the founder of Medford, Matthew Cradock. Although one of the most prominent men of the reigns of James I. and Charles I., the honored contemporary of Pym and Hampden, and the intimate friend of Winthrop, but little is known concerning his own life. He served his apprenticeship in Broad street and later resided in Swithen's lane.[3] He married twice: his first wife, Damaris, bore him a daughter, Damaris; and his second wife, Rebecca, was the mother of Matthew, Thomas, and Mary. Apparently only the daughter Damaris survived him, since no other children are mentioned in his will, although provision is made for such as he might have thereafter.

Cradock had already become interested in the West India trade before his attention was turned to New England.[4] But in 1620 James I. had granted to the Grand Council for New England all the land between forty degrees and forty-eight degrees north latitude, extending west to the South sea. This council in 1628 granted to the Massachusetts Bay Company, consisting then of six persons, all the land between a line everywhere three miles south of the Charles river and a line

[1] Read before the Medford Historical Society, Feb. 21, 1898.
[2] N.E. Gen. Register, v. ix., pp. 122–125.
[3] Cradock's will. [4] Stephen's Dict. of Nat. Biog.

everywhere three miles north of the Merrimac. In 1629 twenty other persons, among whom was Cradock, were associated with them, and a charter constituting them a corporation under the title of the Governor and Company of Massachusetts Bay in New England was obtained from the king. By this charter the king constitutes "our welbeloved the saide Mathewe Craddocke to be the first and present Governor of the said Company." This company, it must be remembered, was formed primarily for purposes of trade, and for that end a settlement in New England was necessary. Over this colony was placed John Endicott as governor; hence the existence of two governors, Cradock, governor of the company in England, and Endicott, governor of the settlement at Salem. The relations between the two and the object of the company may appear from the following letter sent by Cradock in February, 1629[1] — that is, just before the charter was granted: "there hath not bine a better tyme for sale of tymber these twoe seven yeres then at present; therefore pittye shipps should come backe emptye. . . . I wishe alsoe y^t^ there be some sassaffras and sarsaparilla sent vs, as alsoe good store of shoomacke . . . alsoe I hope yo^u^ will have good sturgion in a readiness to send us."

From the very first Cradock was heavily interested financially in the company. In the spring of 1629 shipwrights, gardeners, coopers, cleavers, and a wheelwright were sent over, the expense borne by Cradock and the company equally, or at least one-third by Cradock. Other examples might be given to show his extraordinary interest. In May, 1629, Cradock was reëlected governor for the ensuing year, but was destined not to complete his term. July 28, 1629, at a meeting of the company, "Mr. Governor," so runs the record, "read certain propositions conceived by himself viz. that for the advancement of the plantation, the inducing & encouraging persons of worth & quality to

[1] Mass. Colony Records, i.

transport themselves and families thither, and for other weighty reasons therein contained to transfer the government of the plantation to those who shall inhabit there, and not to continue the same in subordination to the Co. here, as now it is."

The proposition was one of momentous importance. The fortunes of the Puritans in England were at a low ebb. Parliament had been dissolved and the king had determined to rule without one. Never had New England offered such an asylum as now, but the Puritan leaders demanded that the government should be in the colony. In August, 1629, an agreement was signed at Cambridge, England, by Winthrop, Dudley, Saltonstall, and others, by which they agreed to transport themselves and families to Massachusetts, provided the charter went with them. A few days later Cradock's proposition was voted in the affirmative, Winthrop joined the company, and in October was chosen governor, Cradock being elected an assistant. The trading company had become a Puritan colony.

In June, 1630, Winthrop with a fleet arrived at Salem, but finding it unsuitable proceeded to Boston, whence wrote Dudley to the Countess of Lincoln, "we were forced . . . to plant dispersedly . . . some of us upon Mistick, which we named Medford." There is good reason for believing that Cradock's men had already made a settlement on this river, as early as 1629.[1] However that may be, in 1630 Cradock's farm was a well-known locality. No record exists of any definite grant at this time; he probably received the land in return for his large investments in the company's stock, provision having been made for a grant of 200 acres for each £50 invested. In his choice of servants Cradock was unfortunate. Late in the summer of 1630 Austen Bratcher was found dead on the farm, his death occasioned, so the inquest jury found, by blows given by Walter Palmer.[2] The latter was, how-

[1] Young's "Chronicle of N.E.," p. 374. [2] Colony Records.

ever, acquitted. Thomas Foxe, a servant of Cradock's, did not, unfortunately, have implicit faith in the character of the court; he gave expression to his belief that the court had been bribed in the matter, and was sentenced, therefor, to be whipped.

Reports concerning the character of his servants even reached London, and they were believed to be the worst and most burdensome in the colony.[1] In 1632 he was fined for his men being absent from training several times. The leading occupations of Cradock's men at this time appear in a description of New England by Wm. Wood,[2] who visited this country in 1633. "The next town," he writes, "is Misticke which is three miles from Charlestown by land and a league and a half by water. It is situated by the water's side very pleasantly; there be not many houses as yet. At the head of this river are great and spacious ponds whither the alewives pass to spawn. This being a noted place for that kind of fish, the English resort thither to take them. . . . On the east side [of this river] is Master Cradock's plantation, where he hath impaled a park, where he keeps his cattle, till he can store it with deer. Here likewise he is at charges of building ships." In 1634 the General Court granted the "ware att Misticke" to Winthrop and Cradock; and in April of the same year granted to Mr. Wilson and Mr. Nowell 200 acres each lying on the west side of the present Malden river.[3] This land Cradock had regarded as his own, for he writes[4] Winthrop, in 1637, "I thinke I shal bee forsed to bee a suytor for som land at Shaweshynne, the best of myne as I ame informed neere my house beeing allotted to Mr. Wilson & Mr. Nowell."

The first record of a grant of land to Cradock is March 4, 1635. At the court held that day "all the ground, as well upland as meadow lying and being betwixt the lands of Mr. Nowell & Mr. Wilson on

[1] Mass. Hist. Soc. Coll., 4th series, v. vi., Humphrey to Johnson.
[2] Wood's "New England's Prospect." [3] Colony Records.
[4] Winthrop Papers, Mass. Hist. Soc. Coll., 4th series, v. vi., p. 128.

the east, and the partition betwixt Mystic ponds[1] on the west, bounded with Mystic river on the south and the rocks on the north is granted to M^r. Matthew Cradock merchant, to enjoy to him and his heirs forever." The following year, 1636, the northern boundary was made definite by providing that "the land formerly granted to Mr. Matthew Cradock, merchant, shall extend a mile into the country from the river side in all places." The boundaries were still further defined by the order[2] that Charlestown bounds were to run eight miles into the country from their meeting house, reserving the propriety of farms granted to Winthrop, Nowell, Cradock, and Wilson to the owners, and providing commons for their cattle on the back or north side of Mr. Cradock's farm. It will be seen, therefore, that Mr. Cradock's plantation coincided nearly with what is now Medford north of the Mystic to the extent of a mile, when the Charlestown wood lots and commons began. In 1640 the bounds between Cradock's farm and Charlestown were marked out with the usual definiteness of trees, stone walls, etc.

As Cradock never came to America his business was wholly in the hands of agents. The most prominent during Cradock's lifetime were Thomas Mayhewes and his successor Nicholas Davison.

From an affidavit in the Middlesex County Court, in the case of Gleison *v.* Davison *et al.*, it would appear that Davison had also preceded Mayhewes, for Joseph Hill testifies "that about 1633 Mr Nic Davison lived at Meadford house and that Mr. Mayhew did not then dwell at Meadford house."[3] This affidavit is also interesting as showing that in 1633 there was a certain building of sufficient prominence to be designated as "Meadford house."

The location of that house, or of the Cradock house, if they are identical, is not absolutely known. Tradi-

[1] Mass. Colony Records (original); not "bounds," as in reprint.
[2] Colony Records, March 3, 1635–6. [3] County Court archives, Cambridge.

tion has, during the last two or three generations, pointed to the old brick building on Riverside avenue. But tradition is notoriously a bad guide, and, unsupported by evidence,[1] is as often wrong as right. Let us then turn to the records and, without prejudice, examine the evidence. Facing page 120 of this number of the REGISTER is a reproduction of a map of Governor Winthrop's, supposed by critics to have been made about 1634.[2] The place marked "Mr Craddock's farme-house" does not correspond, even making due allowance for inaccuracies, to the neighborhood of the Riverside-avenue house, but is considerably farther up the river, as can be seen by referring to the road from Salem to the ford at the Mystic. Moreover it is at the head of navigation of the river. Far more definite, however, than this map is that of Winthrop's farm at Ten hills,[3] reproduced on p. 123. This map bears date of 1637, and was evidently constructed with great care. On this map Medford is shown as a group of buildings situated near the northern end of the bridge. No other buildings are given, and the half dozen on the map apparently belong to one estate. Now, in 1637, Medford and Governor Cradock's farm were identical. Furthermore, as Winthrop and Cradock were close friends, such a prominent building as the latter's house would not be omitted, if any buildings were given. Here, then, it seems to me, is almost conclusive evidence of the location of the house near the square. So much from the maps.

In his will[4] Cradock does not specify the number or location of the buildings bequeathed; neither do the heirs when they convey[5] to Edward Collins. But when the latter, in 1661, sells sixteen hundred acres of the farm to Richard Russell, the limit on the east is set by the old Nowell and Wilson (then Blanchard) farms, while the western boundary is a brook *west of the*

[1] For the general argument see Brooks' "History of Medford.
[2] See Mass. Hist. Soc. Proceedings, 2d series, v. i., p. 211.
[3] See "Memorial History of Boston," i, p. 114.
[4] Middlesex Deeds, Bk. 2. [5] Middlesex Deeds, Bk. 2.

mansion house. This brook ran out of a swamp near the northern line between Charlestown and the farm, and, according to the dimensions and known boundaries of the conveyance, must have been Meeting-house brook. When Russell, in 1669, sells Jonathan Wade three-quarters of this tract, he reserves the fourth lying next to the Blanchard farm (*i.e.*, Wellington) and *farthest* from the *dwelling house.* When Jonathan Wade died, in 1689, the inventory of his property[1] included a "*brick house*" near the bridge; and that house is still standing, north of the savings bank. Now it does not at all follow that these three buildings are identical; but it is certain that the principal house, the dwelling or mansion house, of this estate, from the time of Collins to Wade, was in the neighborhood of Medford square.

To sum up: (1) No evidence has been brought to light for the house on Riverside avenue.[2] (2) What evidence there is points to a location near the square. (3) The Ten hills farm map (p. 123) suggests strongly the site of the present Garrison house, if not the house itself.

Cradock's venture was not a financial success; at least it did not come up to his expectations.[3] This was in considerable measure due to the shortcomings of his agent Mayhew. In the early years of the settlement Cradock made a contract with him, to expire in June, 1637, and Mayhew was to devote himself solely to Cradock's interests. Yet no account was rendered, and Cradock, becoming suspicious, directed John Joliff and Mr. Pearse with Winthrop's aid to render some sort of account of income and expenses In January, 1637, Cradock writes to Winthrop:[4] "The greyffe I have

[1] Probate Office, Middlesex Co.

[2] Over one hundred deeds have been examined, besides scores of documents in the Probate Office at East Cambridge. All available maps of the region, all the letters of Cradock's known to be extant, the accounts of early travellers, the County Court records for fifty years, and the English records have also been studied.

[3] Cradock to Winthrop, March 15, 1636–7.

[4] These letters have been printed in Mass. Hist. Soc. Coll., 4th series, v. vi.

beene putt to by the most vyle bad dealings of Thomas Mayhew hath & doeth so much disquiet my mynd, as I thanke God neuer aney thing did in the lyke manner." He entreats Winthrop and "those in authority there to take some course that Thomas Mayhew may be answerable ffor that estate of myne." Unauthorized bills come in almost daily, yet nothing ought to have been done without Joliff's consent.

In February, 1637, Cradock again writes complainingly that by his calculation he should have about £1,150 to his credit, and had given orders for money to be remitted, yet Mayhew's extravagances had about extinguished the profits. "Most extremely I ame abused. My seruants write they drinke nothinge but water & I haue in an account lateley sent me Red Wyne, Sack & aquavitae in one yeere aboue 300 gallons besides many other to intollerable abuses, £10 for tobacco," etc.

In March, 1637, Cradock urges Winthrop to aid Joliff in getting possession of his estates, and to make it known that Mayhew has no authority to act for Cradock without Joliff's consent. He also states that he is much out of pocket by reason of his New England venture.

About 1637 or '38 the first bridge over the Mystic was built by Cradock's men. As a recognition of its value the court freed Cradock of his rates to the county and voted that the county would finish it.[1] Doubtless for the same reason a fine of five pounds is remitted the next month.

In reply Cradock writes, in February, 1640, "I ame behoulding to the Court & I hearteley thanke them for easing me in the countrey rates this last yeare. Truely as I once delyuered at a full boord at Counsell tabell, so I haue great cause to acknowledge God's goodness & mercy to me in inabling me to undergoe what I haue & doe suffer by New England, & . . . . if my heart deceyve me not, I joye more in the expectation of that good shall come to others there when I

[1] Colony Records, i.

shal bee dead and gone, then I greyue for my owne losses, though they have beene verry heavey & greate." He then turns his attention to some means of increasing the income and welfare of the settlement, and suggests that, "a Magazine for ffish to be the onley way by God's assistance." Some beginning should be made without expectation of immediate profit, that the fishermen may be assured the fish shall be taken off their hands as fast as possible. "This by degrees will drawe ffishermen to plant themselves there." The inference is clear that up to this time fishing had not been prosecuted to any considerable extent. In the same letter Cradock offers £50 towards the support of Harvard College.

For the cultivation of most of his land Cradock depended probably on hired labor. We have, however, a conveyance given by Cradock personally (the only one, I think, on record) which indicates the existence of manorial tenure, and has probably given rise to the claim that Medford was not a town, but a manor.

This conveyance is of sufficient importance to warrant giving it somewhat fully.[1] It is in the first volume of Suffolk Deeds, and bears date of 26th of April, 1641, one month prior to Cradock's death.

"I, Matthew Cradock Citizen & Skiner of London . . . grant Josiah Dawstin of Mistick at Medford in New England all that my messuage or tenement late in the tenure of the saide Daustin commonly called Dixes house, together with six acres of planting ground adjoining, also seven acres of meadow commonly called by the name of Rock meadow together with fire wood. [We have, it will be observed, the customary grant of house, arable, pasture, and woodland.]

"In return the said Josiah Daustin shall be liable in his person or by an able workman to do any service appertaining to husbandry as said Matthew or his heirs may require for a period of eight days yearly namely

[1] For deed in full see MEDFORD HISTORICAL REGISTER, No. 3.

two day each in May, June, July & August. Matthew is to provide dyett during the eight days and is to grant further, commons for twelve swine and two kine."

Besides his farm or peculiar at Medford Cradock also had men at various other places,[1] — Agawam, Marblehead, Salem, Kennebunk harbor,[2] — and was interested in a mill and weir at Watertown.[3] Whether Cradock ever intended to come to New England is unknown. It seems as if he would have come at the time Mayhew caused him so much worry if he ever intended to. However, with the meeting of the Long Parliament in 1640, and the beginning of the final struggle with the king, Cradock found his duty near at hand. He was elected a member from London and became the spokesman of the financial interests of the city. He was also enrolled among the cuirassiers of Pyrehill Hundred, Staffordshire.[4] In May, 1641, he was appointed on a committee for recusants,[5] but died on the 27th of that same month.[6]

His widow petitioned frequently through Mr. Davison for reimbursement on account of Cradock's outlay, and at last the court settled the claim by the grant of 1,000 acres. His estate in New England was left by his will to be divided between his wife and daughter. Ultimately it came into the possession, as we have seen, of Edward Collins, who disposed of the greater part to Richard Russell. At his hands began the subdividing of Cradock's plantation, which has continued to this day.

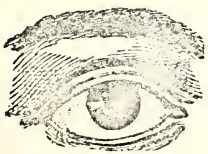
[1] Winthrop's Journal, i., 59, 124.
[2] Lechford's Manuscript Note Book, p. [130]. Am. Antiq. Soc., v. vii.
[3] Suffolk Deeds, i., 29.
[4] Wm. Salt Arch. Society, xv.
[5] Commons Journal, May 14, 1641.
[6] Smith Obituary, Camden Society.

MEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Stated Meetings for 1898–9.

October 17. — Social Meeting.
November 21. — "The Life and Work of Mrs. Maria (Gowen) Brooks." (Maria del Occidente.) Miss Caroline E. Swift.
December 19. — "John Eliot's Difficulties in gaining an Indian Settlement." Mr. Frank Smith, Dedham.
January 16. — "The Evolution of the Medford Public Library." Miss Mary E. Sargent, Librarian.
February 20. — "The Scotch-Irish of Medford." Mr. William Cushing Wait.
March 20. — The Annual Meeting.
April 17. — "The Development of the School System of Medford." Mr. Charles H. Morss, Superintendent of Public Schools.
May 15. — "Some Recollections of the Medford of the Past." Mr. James A. Hervey.

David H. Brown, Charles N. Jones,
George E. Davenport, John Ward Dean,
Charles H. Morss,
Committee on Papers and Addresses.



IN YE OLDEN TIME

It didn't make so much difference if they couldn't see so well; but
MODERN REQUIREMENTS
call for GOOD VISION, and COMFORTABLE VISION, too.
Eyes tested by the most approved modern methods,
and glasses accurately fitted.

8 MAIN STREET,
MEDFORD, MASS.

C. D. TUCKER,
Ophthalmic Refractionist and Optician.

THE

MEDFORD HISTORICAL REGISTER

VOL. II., 1899

PUBLISHED BY THE
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MEDFORD, MASS.

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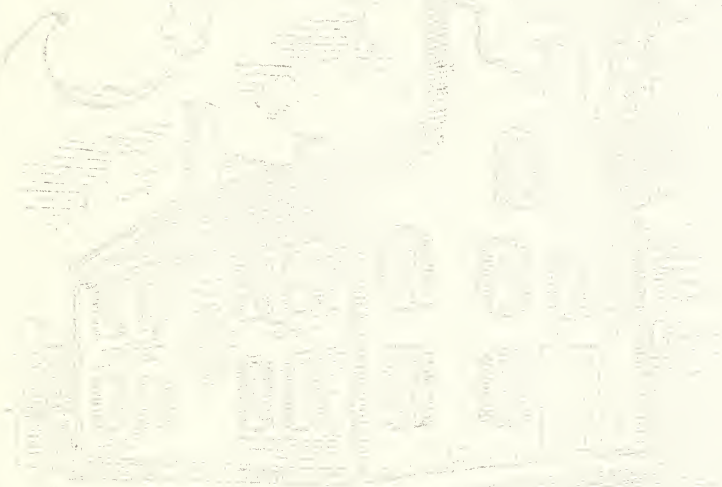

JANUARY, 1899

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MEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

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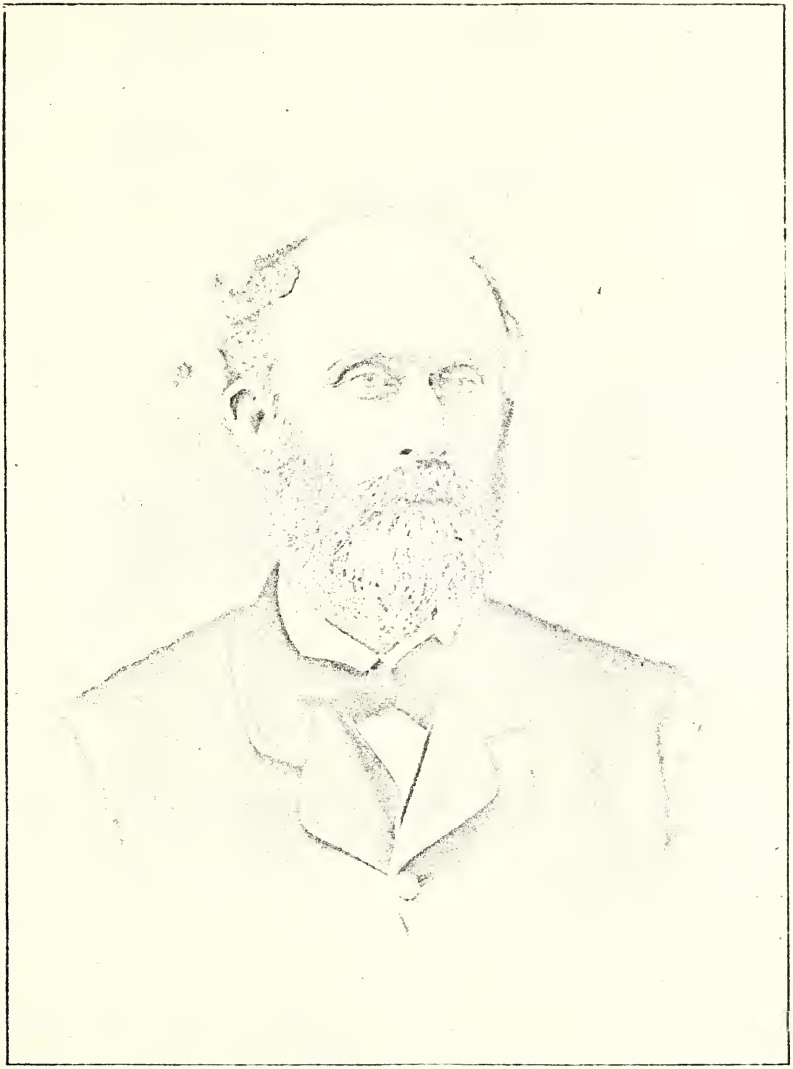

JOHN H. HOOPER.

The Medford Historical Register.

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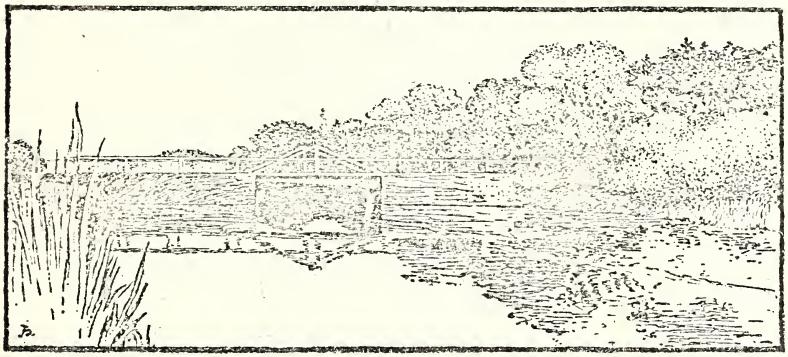
BRIDGES IN MEDFORD.

BY JOHN H. HOOPER.

[Read before The Medford Historical Society.]



THE BRIDGE AT MISTICK.

THE first bridge across Mistick river was built upon the location of the present Cradock bridge, it being the most easterly place, where the land on each side of the river afforded the best means of approaching thereto. The date of its construction is unknown; it was the work of Governor Cradock's agent, and was built of wood, 154 feet 5 inches long, and about 10 feet wide, and was raised about 3 feet above marsh level; its approach on the south side of the river over the marsh was by means of a causeway.

The town of Charlestown brought a suit against Governor Cradock's agent for obstructing the river with a

bridge, to the hindrance of boats, and exacting toll for cattle that passed over the bridge, and appointed a committee to prosecute the suit, and also appointed parties to attend court as witnesses.

Charlestown records say that on the 26th of the 10th month, 1638, "It was ordered that Mr. Walter Palmer and Richard Sprague should follow the suit at the Quarter Court against Mr. Cradock's agent, for stopping up Mistick river with a bridge, to the hindrance of boats, and exacting toll (without any orders) of cattle that go over the bridge.

"George Buncker, Geo. Hutchinson, and James Hayden were appointed to be at the General Court next, to witness to the concerning of Mr. Cradock's bridge."

No mention is made of this suit in the records of the General Court.

In 1879, when the old drawbridge was removed to prepare for the foundations of the present stone bridge, a portion of an ancient structure was found on the north side of the river, and the removal of this old structure disclosed the methods of its construction. First, there was laid in the mud at right angles with the river, and a little below low-water mark, a quantity of brush nearly a foot in thickness, cut about four or five feet in length; then on this brush, laid lengthwise the river, were large elm logs. Then on these logs was built the abutment of the bridge, composed of logs roughly squared by the axe, laid in courses, each course laid in an opposite direction from the one on which it rested. This abutment was about 10 feet in width, and was found to be in a perfect state of preservation.

From what is known of the preservation of wood in tidal waters we may be justified in believing that this old structure was the work of Governor Cradock's agent in those early days.

It is probable that the same method of construction was followed the entire length of the northerly abutment, as the bridge extended some 70 feet northerly from the

present line of the river, the river having been filled in since the bridge was built.

There is a remarkably soft bottom to the river on the westerly side of the bridge; in driving piles for the present stone bridge one was driven 64 feet below low-water mark, and it settled 6 inches under the last blow of the hammer. This soft bottom runs diagonally across the river; while about one-third of the north abutment extends over this soft place, only about 6 feet of the pier is so situated, and there are no traces of it under the south abutment.

This bridge, as will be hereinafter shown, was both rude and weak in its construction, in need of frequent repairs, and, from the peculiar circumstances connected with its care and maintenance, a source of constant annoyance, not only to the inhabitants of Medford, but also to the inhabitants of the neighboring towns, as well as to the Great and General Court.

All printed authorities have heretofore fixed the date of the commencement of this bridge as being in the year 1638.

On a plan of Governor Winthrop's Ten Hills farm, dated the 8th month (October), 1637, is shown a bridge across Mistick river at the place now occupied by the present bridge; there is a singular fact connected with the location of this bridge, which would seem to indicate that if not commenced earlier than the year 1637 (as we believe it to have been) it was at least in contemplation as early as the year 1631. It was in that year that Governor Winthrop received the grant of land known as the Ten Hills farm, and the northwest corner of this grant was located exactly at the southeast corner of the bridge. Could this have been accidental, or was it by design?

As early as the year 1629 there were settlers on both sides of the Mistick river. On the north side Mr. Cradock's men had established themselves, and on the south side Charlestown's territory was being located

upon. As these and other settlements in the Colony grew, it must have been early evident that the ford at Mistick, with the water in the river from 10 to 12 feet deep twice in 24 hours, would be inadequate to the wants of the growing towns, especially as Medford was in the line of travel between the north and south shores of Massachusetts bay. It is entirely within the bounds of possibility to believe that the site of this bridge was selected as early as the year 1631, if not before.

The first reference to this bridge in the records of the General Court is in the year 1639:

"At the General Court held in Boston the 22nd. of the 3rd. month (called May) 1639. Mr. Mathew Cradock is freed of rates to the County by agreement of the Court, for the year ensuing from this day. in regard to his charge in building the bridge, and the county is to finish it at the charge of the public, Mr. Davidson and Lieut. Sprague to see it done and to bring in their bill of charges."

This action of the General Court shows that, although Mistick bridge was first commenced by Mr. Cradock as a private enterprise, yet it so commended itself to the Court as a public benefit that Mr. Cradock was reimbursed for what he had previously done towards its construction, by freeing him from County rates for one year; and it was ordered to be finished at the public expense, and, as we shall see, the Court ordered it to be repaired from time to time thereafter, at the expense of the Province. The records of the General Court say that "Oct. 10th. 1641 it is ordered that Lieut. Sprague and Edward Converse should repair the bridge at Medford over Mistick river, and the same be paid for out of the Treasury."

Oct 17th. 1643. "Mr. Edward Tomlins should have 22 pounds to repair Mistick bridge, to make it strong and sufficient, for which sum of 22 pound he hath undertaken it."

"At a General Court at Boston, for elections the 6th.

of the 3rd. month 1646. Ralph Sprague and Edward Converse are appointed to view the bridge at Mistick, and what charge they conceive meet to be presently expended for the making it sufficient and prevent the ruin thereof, or by further delay to endanger it, by agreeing with workmen for the complete repairing thereof and to make their return to Mr. Willoughby and Mr. Russell. and what they shall do herein to be satisfied out of the Treasury."

March, 1647–8. "Capt. Ting, Mr. Glover, Lieft. Pendleton, Willie Parker and Edward Jackson are appointed a committee, they or any of them to view Mistick bridge, and certify to the next Court, the two first named to give notice and three days warning to the rest."

Of the duties of this committee, or of their report, we can only judge by the action of the Court.

March, 1647–8. "It was voted by the whole Court that Mistick bridge, should be made and maintained by the County at the public charge."

This action of the General Court, placing upon the County the charge of maintaining Mistick bridge, was not satisfactory to Mr. Cradock's agent, as will be shown by the following action of the Court:

Oct. 27, 1648. "In answer to the petition of Nic. Davidson in behalf of Mr. Cradock for the repairing and maintaining of Mistick bridge by the County, the said Mr. Davidson being sent for, the evidence he can give being heard and examined with the records of the General Court, it appears that the General Court did engage for an exemption from rates for that year, and finishing the same on their own charges, which accordingly hath been done."

That the troubles of Mr. Cradock's agent in regard to a safe and convenient way across Mistick river did not cease by reason of his petition and the indefinite action of the Court thereon, can be inferred by the record five years later.

May 18, 1653. "Upon a petition presented by Mr. Nicholas Davidson in behalf of Mr. Cradock, in reference to Mistick bridge, it is ordered by this Court and hereby declared that, if any person or persons, shall appear that will engage sufficiently to build, repair and maintain the bridge at Mistick, at his or their proper cost and charges, it shall be lawful, and all and every such person or persons so engaging, are hereby authorized, and have full power to ask, require, and receive of every single person passing over said bridge, one penny, and for every horse and man sixpence, for every beast two pence, and for every cart one shilling, and this to continue so long as the bridge shall be sufficiently maintained as aforesaid."

Whether any person or persons availed themselves of the privileges above granted, or whether the bridge was kept in repair by the County, we are unable to determine. It is clear, however, from this time henceforth the County Court had jurisdiction over Mistick bridge, for, three years later, April 1, 1656, the County Court appointed a committee to erect Mistick bridge, and to levy the charges thereon upon the County according to law, and on Dec. 30, 1656, a committee was appointed by the Court "to take into consideration the many defects of the bridges within the limits of this County, and to recommend the methods of keeping said bridges in repair, and the Court order that all bridges already made, shall be repaired at the charge and care of the several towns and precincts wherein they lay."

May 15, 1657, the committee reported in full upon the subject submitted to them, and we quote only such portions of the report as relate to Mistick bridge, as follows: "Only those two bridges, viz: at Billerica and Mistick, to be finished at the County's charge, and from time to come maintained by the towns and precincts in which they are."

This return of the committee was accepted by the County Court, and the same was presented to the

General Court for its approval, which was had on the 18th of the 3d month, 1657. We find from this action of the Court that the two bridges, viz., at Billerica and Mistick, were the only ones to be rebuilt at the expense of the County, the bridge at Mistick being already in progress of construction by a committee previously appointed for that purpose. Under date of June 16, 1657, we find in the records of the County Court the following order: "The County Court being informed that the bridge over Mistick river, being now ready to be raised, is likely to be delayed for want of hands to carry on that work, which cannot be secured at the request of the undertakers thereof, do therefore order, that the committee already empowered by the Court for that work, may impress carpenters and sawyers to be helpful therein, provided that due recompense be made them out of the Counties pay, and that none be pressed exceeding one fortnights labor."

The bridge at that time must have been built good and strong, for we find no further mention of it until July 17, 1668, when, according to the records of the town of Charlestown, a meeting of a part of the Board of Selectmen of that town, and commissioners from the towns of Woburn, Reading, Malden, and Medford, took place to consider measures for a division of Mistick bridge among the several towns who were required by law to mend and maintain it. These commissioners agreed "that the towns of Woburn, Reading, Malden and Medford, should pay to the town of Charlestown five pounds in good pay viz: in Corn, or the like, for the present amending of the southerly half of Mistick bridge, and that in the future, and for all time to come, the said southerly half of said bridge, being 77 feet 2½ inches in length, should be mended and maintained by the said town of Charlestown, and the northerly half thereof being of like length, should be mended and maintained by the other towns above named."

It is a fact well attested by the many records that have been handed down to us that the four towns which assumed the care of the northerly half of the bridge made a division of the same, so that each town assumed a certain specified portion to keep in repair, and although there is no record of any such action, we are of the opinion that the commissioners representing these four towns must at that time have agreed as to the proportional part of said northerly half of the bridge that each town should care for. It is worthy of note at this time that some years after, Medford and Reading appointed committees to search the records for some evidence of such division, and Woburn inhabitants declared, in town meeting assembled, that what they had formerly done towards the repairing of Mistick bridge was only an act of charity to Medford. That a division was recognized by the several towns interested, and also by the County Court, is made evident by the records of that Court.

June 18, 1672. "Malden, Medford and Woburn enjoined to repair Mistick bridge, before the Oct. term of Court on penalty of 100 pounds for default."

Oct. 17, 1672. "Charlestown reported that their part of the bridge was done, and Woburn that they had taken effectual order for doing their part of the work."

Sept. 6, 1687. "The Court being informed that Mistick bridge is defective, order that it be forthwith repaired, and that there be rails on each side where they are wanted; by those towns that have been formerly enjoined to do the same, the towns concerned are Charlestown, Medford, Malden, Reading and Woburn, whose Selectmen are ordered to take effectual care and order for repairing the same, Charlestown to appoint the times of meeting for surveying and completing the said work, and to make returns."

Jan. 20, 1692–3. "The Court order the Selectmen of Woburn, Malden and Reading be summoned to appear at the next adjournment of this Court, to answer to presentments for defects in their parts of Mistick bridge."

Jan. 27, 1692–3. "The Selectmen of Medford, Malden, Woburn and Reading, are called upon to repair the northerly half of Mistick bridge, as they have been wont to do, forthwith, and to make report at the next term of Court, on penalty of Five pounds in money, for each towns neglecting to attend to this order of the Court."

Evidently but little attention was paid to this order of the Court, for on Dec. 12, 1693, the Court orders the respective towns to appear and answer to the defects in the northerly half of Mistick bridge.

Dec. 26, 1693. "The Selectmen of Medford, appear in Court, to answer to their presentment respecting a defect in the Northerly half of Mistick bridge, and say that their part of the bridge is in very good repair. The Selectmen of Woburn, Reading and Malden appear and say that they have nothing to do with the repairing of Mistick bridge, nor should concern themselves therewith."

The above orders of the Court appear to have caused great excitement in the three towns above-named. In Woburn a meeting of the inhabitants was called Jan. 10, 1693–4, to take the subject into consideration, and the said inhabitants declare, "that what they had formerly done towards the repairing of Mistick bridge, was only an Act of Charity to help Medford when they were low and poor, and to help those men that had formerly engaged themselves to help repair the same, and now Medford was much increased both in numbers and in estate, and those gentlemen that had formerly engaged themselves as aforesaid, being all dead, now therefore the said inhabitants once more voted, that as by law they were not engaged to help repair Mistick bridge, so that they would do nothing to the same." The town of Woburn also voted to employ counsel for its defence, and the town of Reading voted "not to repair Mistick bridge unless compelled to by law." Malden also took similar action. The town of Medford

appointed a committee "to attend the premises from Court to Court, until there should be a final determination and settlement of Mistick bridge."

The Court of General Sessions of the Peace answered this defiance of these towns in the following manner, Jan. 20, 1693–4: "Whereas there was an order of the General Court, referring the settlement of Mistick bridge, to the County Court of Middlesex, and said Court ordering the repairs of said bridge to be by the respective towns of Charlestown, Reading, Woburn, Malden and Medford, according to their wonted manner, until the General Court make further provision, and the defects of said bridge having been presented to this Court, before the late law respecting bridges, the Court order that the respective towns, do forthwith make sufficient repairs of the said defects of said bridge, upon pains and penalty of five pounds fine to their Majesties for their respective defaults of each of said towns, and then to make returns of their doings therein to the next General Sessions of the Peace for Middlesex, and that for the future it shall be left to the determination of the law."

Jan. 23, 1693–4. "The Selectmen of Medford appear in Court and answer that their part of the bridge is in good repair."

This prompt order of the Court had its effect upon the delinquent towns, for Woburn, the leader in the controversy, appeared in Court, Dec. 15, 1694, and the record says, "That Woburn's return in regard to repairs on the northerly half of Mystic bridge, accepted by the Court." Woburn records also say, "That the bridge was sufficiently mended by Josiah Convers, Sworn Surveyor, and returns made as aforesaid, and recorded." In obeying the order of the Court without appeal, the three towns were doubtless influenced by the language of the Court in saying that these defects in the bridge were brought to its notice before the late law respecting bridges, and also by the decision of the Court that in

the future it should be left to the determination of the law. These towns based their hopes of avoiding in the future any expense on account of Mistick bridge upon the late law above referred to; how vain were their hopes will be hereinafter shown.

In 1698 the town of Medford was again complained of for defects in the northerly half of Mistick bridge, and it voted "to empower a lawyer, referring to answer a presentment for defect in Mistick bridge."

March 8, 1698. "Lieut. Peter Tufts, Stephen Francis, and Thomas Willis, Selectmen of Medford, appear in Court, to answer for defects in the north end of Mistick bridge, and inform the Court that their part of the bridge is in good repair, and that the defect is in the part appertaining to Reading, Woburn, and Malden, whereupon the Court order that those towns appear and show reason why they should not repair their part of said bridge according to former usage."

The town of Medford, fearing that its interests might be imperilled at this time, voted, March 28, 1698, "to empower Mr. John Leverett for the further defending the town, referring to Mistick bridge, in case there be need."

April 8, 1698. The County Court again say: "The northerly half of Medford, alias Mistick, bridge having been presented to the Court as defective and dangerous, and the respective towns of Woburn, Reading, and Malden, that were formerly and from time to time wont to repair the same, having been summoned to appear in Court and show cause why said part of said bridge, should not be repaired by them according to former usage, and the said towns having been heard, the Court order that the said towns make speedy and sufficient repairs on said northerly half of said bridge, in proportion according to former usage, upon penalty of Five pounds fine, for each towns default, and that they make returns to this Court. Woburn, Malden, and Reading appeal."

The defendant towns claimed before the Court of Appeal that they were not by law compelled to assist in the repairing of Mistick bridge, and referred to a law passed by the General Court in 1693 compelling towns to choose, annually, one or more surveyors of highways, who should take care that all highways, private ways, causeys, and bridges lying within the limits of such towns, should be kept in repair at the expense of the town wherein they were situated; it was provided, however, that this law should only apply to cases where it was not otherwise settled.

The decision of the Court was, that in the case of Mistick bridge the law of 1693 did not apply, as it had been otherwise settled as to how said bridge should be repaired, and the defendant towns were obliged to submit.

Dec. 26, 1701. "The Selectmen of Woburn appear in Court to answer to their presentment for deficientcy in the northerly part of Mistick bridge in which they were concerned, and say that they do not deny to mend the bridge, the Court thereupon order that the towns of Woburn, Reading and Malden do mend said bridge, and make it safely passable and to perfect the same, and make it sufficient by the next term of Court, and report their doings on the same, upon penalty of five pounds for each of said towns default."

Dec. 15, 1702. "The Selectmen of Woburn, Reading and Malden appear in court and say the north end of Mistick bridge is repaired and safe."

Jan. 16, 1704–5. "One of the Selectmen of Woburn appeared in Court to answer to a presentment by the Grand Jury concerning a defect in the northerly half of Mistick bridge, and informed the Court that the greatest defect in the said north end of said bridge, is not in their part thereof, and if their part is not in such good repair as it should be, yet they will do it as soon as the season will permit."

Sept. 18, 1705. "It was ordered that Eleazer Wyer

and Samuel Brooks, surveyors of highways for the town of Medford, forthwith cause the northerly half of said bridge, to be well and sufficiently repaired and to make return to the Court, of the cost and charges thereof, who will apportion the charges to the several towns that have time out of mind mended and repaired said north end of Mistick bridge."

The surveyors of Medford attended to this duty and made their returns to the Court, as will appear by the following record, dated Dec. 15, 1705 : "The surveyors of highways of the town of Medford, who pursuant to the order of the Court, having brought in their account, which according to allowance thereof, amounted to the sum of ten pounds, ten shillings and four pence, of which sum the Court order the towns of Woburn, Reading, and Malden, shall each pay to the said surveyors, three pounds in money, and the town of Medford thirty shillings in money."

July 5, 1714. "The Court upon the appearance of the several towns to answer to the matter of Mistick bridge, appoint a committee to view the same, and consider how and in what way it may be repaired out of hand, that it may be safe for his Majesties subjects, and to make their report at an adjourned meeting of the court, to be held on the 13th day of July."

On the day above mentioned the Committee report, "That the bridge is not passable till some string pieces be put on for safety for the present, and that it be new built as soon as possible." The Court accepted the report and appointed John Bradshaw and Aaron Cleveland to provide timber and wood, "and when they have done the work, to lay the cost and charges thereof before the Court."

June 16, 1715. "The Court pursuant to their late order, apportioning the building of Mistick bridge, amounting to 135 pounds and three shillings. The Court order the same to be paid by the respective towns of Charlestown, Medford, Malden, Woburn, and Reading,

Charlestown to pay to Aaron Cleveland sixty-four pounds and fourteen shillings, and Medford, Malden, Woburn and Reading to pay to John Bradshaw seventeen pounds twelve shillings and three pence each, and that an order be issued that the several sums be paid within two months, upon penalty of being proceeded against for contempt in making default. Woburn, Malden, and Reading appeal, and are put under bonds to prosecute their appeal."

Medford at that time chose a committee, to prosecute the whole matter to its final settlement.

It is impossible to tell upon what grounds these towns based their appeal; the decision of the Court was against them, and we hear but little complaint in regard to Mistick bridge for some years; they, however, were not easy under their burden of repairing the bridge, and made several ineffectual efforts to rid themselves of the charge. Woburn appointed a committee to go before the General Court with a petition "that they be eased of the burden of Mistick bridge, or have liberty of a landing-place at the river." And Reading voted "to try to get clear of mending Mistick bridge in future."

In 1725 the town of Charlestown sold to Aaron Cleveland and Samuel Kendall a piece of upland and marsh, situated on the corner of the great road leading to Charlestown and the way leading to the Ford; the way to the river on the upper side of the bridge was also included in the sale, and one of the conditions of the sale was that the grantees should forever maintain and keep in repair the southerly half of Mistick bridge and the causey adjoining.

The records of the County Court say that "March 15, 1736, the towns of Medford, Charlestown, Woburn, Reading and Malden by their respective agents appear in Court, to answer to their presentment for not repairing Mistick bridge, and the said towns plead not guilty, and move to be tried by the Court. The Court thereupon order that Francis Foxcroft, Joseph Mason, and

Ephraim Williams, Esqrs., be a committee to repair the bridge mentioned in presentment, view the circumstances, and state the divisional line; consider on which side of the line the defect is, and report to the Court at their adjournment, and that the bridge be forthwith repaired by Capt. Aaron Cleveland, and the charge borne as the Court shall order, and that the committee give reasonable notice of their coming. The committee report that the said bridge, except in one particular, in the hollow work, is in such circumstances as that his Majesties subjects may pass over the same with safety, and that the divisional line is, and ought to be, where the two spear or king posts stand, in about the middle of the hollow work or arch of the bridge, and that the defect is in the part that Charlestown ought to maintain, ordered: that the said town of Charlestown pay a fine of five shillings, and pay fees and costs taxed at thirteen pounds eight shillings, and two pence."

In 1754, by the annexation of that part of Charlestown situated on the south side of the river to the town of Medford, the southerly half of Mistick bridge and the causey adjoining became a charge to the town of Medford (the town tried in vain to secure the help of other towns in caring for the said south part of said bridge), and Samuel Brooks, Esq., Lieut. Stephen Hall, Jr., and Joseph Tufts were chosen a committee to manage affairs relating to the said southerly half of Mistick bridge and the causey adjoining. Medford town records say that July 25, 1757, "Samuel Brooks, Esq., Stephen Hall, Esq., and Capt. Caleb Brooks, be a committee to agree with suitable persons to rebuild the south side of Medford great bridge with wood or stone."

We are now to consider the measures taken to place the whole charge of maintaining Mistick bridge upon the town of Medford, it being evident that the methods then existing were most unsatisfactory. At a town-meeting held in Woburn, July 21, 1760, a committee was chosen to agree with the town of Medford upon

a sum of money, by the payment of which the said town of Woburn might be finally discharged from any further care of Mistick bridge. The towns of Malden and Reading also chose committees for the same purpose. At a town-meeting held in Medford, May 13, 1761, a committee was chosen "to treat with Woburn, Reading, and Malden, concerning Medford bridge, and to acquit any of them that shall comply: from all further charge, and also to treat with the General Court if there be reason."

Woburn was discharged in consequence of the above vote by paying the sum of 26 pounds 13 shillings and 4 pence lawful money.

Reading paid 14 pounds lawful money and Malden 16 pounds 13 shillings and 4 pence lawful money.

Agreements were drawn up between Medford and the three towns above named. They were similar in form; we submit that with Woburn only.

"AGREEMENT OF MEDFORD ABOUT YE BRIDGE."

"Know all men by these Presents, that we Samuel Brooks Esqr. Stephen Hall Esqr. Zachariah Poole Gentleman, Simon Tufts Gentleman, Seth Blogget Gentleman, and Benjamin Parker, Gentleman, being chosen and impowered by the town of Medford to agree with the town of Woburn about Medford Bridge, we being all of the town of Medford in the County of Middlesex and Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England. Do agree that for and in consideration of the sum of Twenty-six pounds thirteen shillings and four pence of Lawful money paid by the town of Woburn before the ensealing hereof, do hereby acquit and discharge the said town of Woburn from all past and future charges arising by reason of said Bridge, and do in our said capacity take upon the town of Medford all the charge and care of said Bridge, which the town of Woburn was bound to do or ever shall be: In witness

whereof we in our said capacity have hereunto sett our hands and seals this seventh day of July annoque Domini one thousand seven hundred and sixty-one, and in the first year of his Majestie's reign.

"Signed Sealed and Deilvered	Stephen Hall, [L. S.]
in presence of us	Simon Tufts, [L. S.]
" Willis Hall.	Z. Poole, [L. S.]
" Aaron Hall.	Benjn. Parker, [L. S.]"

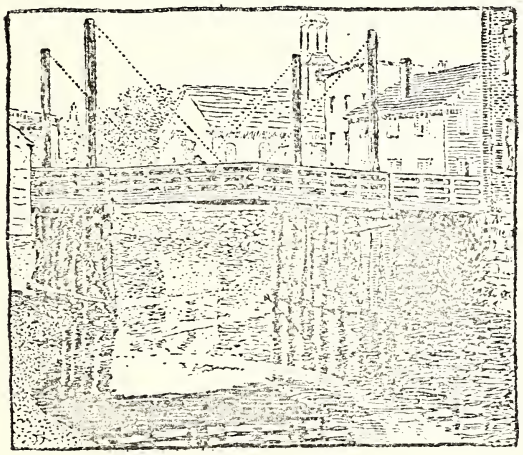
In 1789 the town of Medford proposed to widen the bridge and pave the market-place, and the General Court was petitioned to grant a lottery for these purposes. The petitioners were given leave to withdraw.

In 1794 a number of the inhabitants of Medford petitioned the Selectmen to insert an article in the warrant for the annual town-meeting, "To see if the town will build a draw in the Great bridge, or give liberty to certain proprietors to do it, upon obtaining permission from the General Court," and at the meeting held March 3, 1794, a committee was chosen to confer with the petitioners. Nothing, however, was done towards building a draw until March 5, 1804, when the town chose a committee to examine the bridge, and report in what manner it should be repaired, and April 2, 1804, the committee report, "that it is expedient that a new bridge be built, and recommend that it be 30 feet in width, also that it should have four piers of white oak timber of seven spoils each, the two outside piers to be set 20 feet from each other, to have an arch in the center of 26 feet in the clear, and a draw the width of the arch, provided individuals will be at the expenses of it, also that the south abutment should be taken up, so as to make the water-course 66 feet wide, the north abutment being very good to remain as it is, but strengthened by a pier to be placed in a proper position, and the new bridge to be raised three feet higher than the old one," the cost of rebuilding without a draw, and including the cost of a temporary bridge was estimated

at 1,000 dollars. The committee say that a draw bridge would very much promote the interests and increase the trade of the town.

The town accepted the report, rechose the committee, and authorized them to contract for a new bridge; private parties subscribed $280 as a contribution towards the building of a draw, but the sum was found to be insufficient, and on May 3, 1805, the town instructed the committee to go on and finish it.

May 20, 1807, the town votes that 12½ cents be charged for opening and closing the draw, and May 20, 1809, the town fixes the price of opening the draw at 10 cents for a lighter, and 20 cents for a larger vessel. On April 7, 1817, the town appointed a committee to take into consideration the subject of a drawbridge, and report as to the proper method of hoisting and keeping the draw in repair, and May 12, 1817, this committee report, "that at the time of building the first draw, certain individuals subscribed $280 towards it, but it cost considerable more, and parties failed to subscribe the balance, that the tackle and apparatus was out of order, and that it would cost $100 to put them in proper repair, and they recommend that the draw be fastened up, and no more raised until a sufficient sum be raised

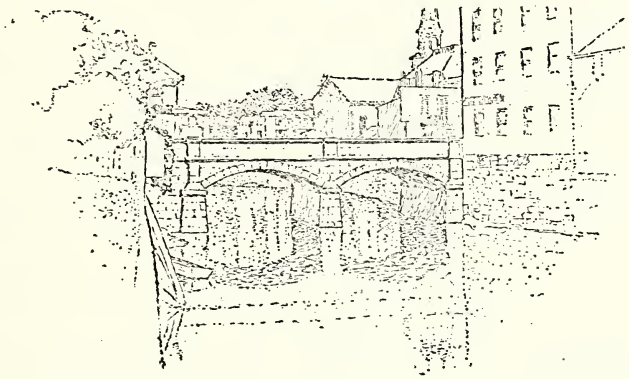


DRAWBRIDGE.

by individuals, and paid over to the agent or agents of the town."

The town accepted the report, and it is presumed that sufficient funds were forthcoming, as it is evident that the draw was soon afterwards in use. On March 2, 1829, "A committee was appointed to see if the draw in the Great bridge could be dispensed with, and closed, and on what terms, also what repairs are needed, or whether a new draw must be made." This committee reported, May 4, 1829, "that having consulted eminent counsel, they are advised that the town is under no legal obligation to make, or maintain a drawbridge, but may build without a draw as heretofore, they also say that they are not aware of any interests that the town has in a draw of sufficient moment to justify the expense of it, they therefore recommend that the draw be closed, and the bridge made permanent, unless individuals should be willing to secure the town against the cost and expense of building and maintaining it, also, that the bridge be rebuilt, and that it be built as wide as the street leading to it from the market place, and with walks on the sides, railed in, for foot passengers." This report was accepted by the town, and a committee was chosen to repair the old bridge, or build a new one, as shall appear to them to be for the best interests of the town. This decision of the town to leave the building of a drawbridge to the discretion of a committee did not prove satisfactory to quite a number of the inhabitants of the town, for at a meeting held May 16, 1829, only twelve days later, the town voted to instruct the committee in charge of rebuilding the bridge to build with a draw. This decision of the town to build with a draw was no doubt influenced by the fact that a shipyard had already been established above the bridge, and as early as the year 1815 a ship of 370 tons burden had been built there. The register of vessels built in Medford shows that prior to 1829 some 13 vessels had been built above the bridge, and their construction must have

given employment to quite a number of mechanics and laboring men, as the demands of commerce from time to time called for a larger class of vessels; so the demands of the parties interested in shipbuilding caused the town to vote to widen the draw in the Great bridge. In 1833 Mr. George Fuller built at his yard above the bridge a ship of 440 tons burden, and was obliged to make changes in the draw in order to allow her a passage down the river.



STONE BRIDGE.

The town reimbursed Mr. Fuller for his expense, and in 1834 authorized the Selectmen to widen the draw when they should find it necessary to do so. Under this vote the draw was widened, and answered all purposes until 1838, when, in answer to petitions, the town appointed a committee to investigate the subject of widening the draw. In April, 1839, this committee reported in favor of widening the draw 3 feet, and the town accepted their report. In 1845 Mr. Paul Curtis had upon the stocks at his shipyard near the Winthrop-street bridge a ship of 850 tons burden, it being the largest vessel built in Medford up to that

date. This ship was too wide to pass through the draw, and the town was again petitioned to widen the draw, and March 12, 1845, chose a committee to repair according to their discretion; under this vote the bridge was rebuilt, the width of the draw increased to 40 feet, and the north abutment relaid. In 1872, the shipyards above the bridge having been abandoned, and there being no further demand for the opening of the draw to navigation, the Selectmen petitioned the General Court for a permit to build a level bridge, which petition was granted, with the proviso that it should be so constructed as to allow a section 40 feet in width to be removed for the passage of vessels up and down the river. No action was taken to rebuild until 1879, when the General Court was again petitioned by sundry inhabitants of the town, asking that the proviso requiring a movable section be repealed. This petition was granted, and the present stone bridge was built in 1880.

THE BRIDGE AT THE WEARS.

The first mention of a bridge at the wears is in the town records, March 1, 1699, "Put to vote whether the town will give Mr. John Johnson, three pounds towards building a sufficient horse bridge over the wears, said bridge being railed on each side, and the said bridge raised so high, as there may be a fit passage for boats and rafts up and down said river. Voted in the affirmative."

No doubt a bridge was built at that time, but it must have been a frail affair, and of short duration, for in December, 1721, the towns of Charlestown and Medford were complained of for not maintaining a bridge at the wears. The town chose a committee to make answer before the Court, and the complaint was dismissed. Again in December, 1736, May, 1738, and in May, 1743, the said towns were indicted by the Grand Jury for neglecting to erect a bridge at the wears. The defence of Med-

ford was that the ford was easy and convenient, and that Medford people seldom or never travelled that way. Each time the towns were found not guilty. In 1746 a petition was presented to Governor Shirley and the General Court, by a number of inhabitants of several towns in Middlesex County, asking for a bridge across Mistick river, at the wears. The town of Medford was notified of this petition, and at a meeting held May 19, 1746, a committee was chosen to draw up an answer thereto. At an adjourned meeting held May 25, 1746, the committee reported; the town accepted their report and voted an answer, in accordance with said report, as follows: "To His Excellency William Shirley Esq. Captain General and Governor in chief, in and over His Majesties Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, to the Honorable His Majesties Council and House of Representatives in General Court assembled at Boston on Thursday 29th of May, 1746. The town taking into deliberate consideration the beforementioned petition, humbly beg leave to suggest, that inasmuch as the inhabitants of many of the towns, do pass and repass said place much oftener than the inhabitants of Medford, it being out of our way of marketing, etc. and but seldom used by any of us, we having and helping to maintain a bridge over Mistick river, in the road leading most directly to Boston. And even the inhabitants of the westerly part of Medford, who are nearest to the Wears, rarely travel that way, nor would if there was a bridge. Besides it may be worthy of consideration, that although the town of Medford be one of the smallest in the Province, both as to lands, as well as inhabitants, yet its charges as to the gospel ministry, a grammar school and a representative, are perhaps equal to almost any of the large and wealthy towns about us: therefore and for other reasons (for we would not be tedious) we pray that if your Excellency and Honors, should in your great wisdom, order a bridge to be erected at the place abovementioned, the charge of building and maintaining

it, may be laid, either on the County of Middlesex, or proportioned among the inhabitants of a considerable number of towns, who will most use it."

Charlestown chose a committee to oppose the building of a bridge. The General Court granted the petition for a bridge, and the towns of Medford and Charlestown were ordered to build and maintain one over the wears, and each pay one-half of the expense. August, 1747, the General Court "order that Samuel Danforth, William Brattle, and Edmund Trowbridge, Esqrs., be a committee of said Court, empowered and directed, to cause a good and sufficient bridge, to be erected over the place called the Wears, between Medford and Charlestown."

Nov. 4, 1747, Andrew Hall, Ebenezer Brooks, and Francis Whitmore, Jr., were appointed a committee on behalf of the town of Medford to build one-half of the bridge. Two hundred pounds old tenor was raised to pay for it.

May 12, 1760, the Selectmen were chosen a committee to divide the bridge with the town of Charlestown. From this vote it seems that the bridge was, up to that time, under the joint charge of these towns, and that it was now deemed desirable that each town should care for that portion within its limits. This bridge has been several times rebuilt; it assumed its present shape in 1892; its care and maintenance is now a charge to the city of Medford and the town of Arlington.

GRAVELLY BRIDGE.

Gravelly bridge is located in Salem street over Gravelly creek, and as the flow of the tide at that point was sufficient to prevent the passage of teams at high water it is more than probable that the first bridge over this creek must have been built in the early days of the settlement of the town. April 27, 1716, Deacon Thomas Willis, John Whitmore, Jonathan Tufts, Ebenezer Brooks, and John Willis were chosen a committee to view and consider what method may be most proper

for the repairing of Gravelly bridge, and to report at the next meeting. June 11, 1716, the town voted to raise five pounds to repair the meeting-house and mend Gravelly bridge; in 1751 the town voted to rebuild Gravelly bridge with stone.

The bridges over Marble or Meeting-house and Whitmore brooks in High street were by order of the town rebuilt of stone in 1803; these brooks where crossed by the street are not affected by the flow of the tide. All of the bridges above mentioned were originally built so as to allow fording-places at their sides for the purpose of watering horses and cattle, and they have since been enlarged and extended so as to cover the entire width of the streets.

The bridge over Gravelly creek at Riverside avenue was built in 1746, by private parties, for the purpose of making a convenient way to the tide-mill; and by agreement with the owners of the land over which this way was laid the bridge was built of stone.

The bridge over Mystic river, at Harvard avenue, was built in 1856; it is situated in the city of Medford and town of Arlington, and by a vote of the town of Medford in 1857 was named "Usher's bridge."

The bridge at Winthrop street was built in 1857 and named "Winthrop bridge." The decree of the County Commissioners required that it should be built with a draw, or with a movable section so as to allow for the passage of vessels.

The bridge at Boston avenue was built in 1873; it is situated in the cities of Medford and Somerville, and its abutments and piers are the same that supported the aqueduct of the Middlesex canal, which crossed the river at that point.

The bridge at Auburn street was also built in 1873.

Middlesex-avenue bridge was built in 1873, by the County of Middlesex; it is situated in the cities of Medford and Somerville, and is maintained at the joint charge of those cities; the care of the bridge and the

appointment of draw-tender devolves upon the city of Medford.

The bridge over the Boston & Lowell Railroad at College avenue was built in 1861, by the town of Medford, and is the only bridge over that railroad whose maintenance is chargeable to Medford.

The bridge over this railroad at Winthrop street was originally built eighteen feet in width. When the County Commissioners laid out this way as a county way, they ordered the bridge to be widened to twenty-five feet. The railroad company contended that it was not liable for any expense in widening the bridge, and the matter was settled by the town assuming the expense in widening, and the company assuming its care and maintenance so long as it should be needed for the said company's convenience.

In addition to the railroad bridges above mentioned, there is one at Harvard street, where the street passes under the railroad, and one each at North and Grove streets, where those streets pass over said railroad.

Mention should be made of those bridges that once existed in our streets over the Middlesex canal. There was one over the branch canal at Mystic avenue near Swan street, and one each over the main canal at Main street near Summer street, at Winthrop street near West street, at North street at its junction with West, Cotting, and Auburn streets, and at High street at its junction with Boston avenue.

The abutments of the bridge over the canal, where crossed by the Boston & Lowell Railroad, may still be seen near the Chemical Works, on Boston avenue in the city of Somerville.

MEMBERS.

Number previously reported, 226.

Begien, Henry M.
Brown, George E.
Bruce, Mrs. F. P.
Buss, Charles B.
Coburn, Charles F.
Fuller, G. S. T.
Hollis, Mrs. Mary P.
Kennedy, Dr. J. S.
Leavitt, Harry B.
Montague, Mrs. Hattie B.
Start, Mrs. Philena C.
Sturtevant, James S.

MEDFORD IN THE WAR OF THE REVOLUTION.

By Helen T. Wild.

[Read before The Medford Historical Society, April 18, 1898.]

FOR an old town, Medford is singularly devoid of traditions. Few of the old families are represented by name at the present day. Still, in unexpected places, we find stories which when compared with the records prove true. Even they are imperfect. Medford men who served during the War of Independence are not always credited to the town. The muster rolls, from 1775 to 1778, are very few. Later, more system was adopted, and descriptive lists are common. Men were not mustered by companies, as they were in the Civil War, but six, nine, or a dozen were recruited, and sent to some convenient point where they and the quotas from other towns were combined to form a company, or they were sent direct to fill vacant places in companies already in the field.

Although in the Continental army the system of numbering the regiments was in use, they were usually designated by the surname of the colonel. When several bore the same name this custom is confusing.

Another difficulty is the repetition of family names, so common in those days. The authorities were by no means careful to write Jr. where it belonged. The Town Records are more correct on this point than the State Papers. Making allowance for mistakes made in this way, I have found over two hundred men who served for Medford — twenty-five per cent. of all the inhabitants of the town in 1776.

This does not cover the whole number; for instance, in July, 1776, thirty men went to Ticonderoga, and we have the names of only twelve. The other eighteen were from "Hampshire Government." Other recruits were, like these, non-residents, hired to fill up the town's quota, but one hundred eighty-nine have been identified

MISS HELEN T. WILD.

as Medford citizens, or bore surnames common in the town at that time. One hundred were tax-payers between 1775 and 1783.

In August, 1774, Medford began to be anxious about her supply of powder, stored with that of the surrounding towns in the Powder House on Quarry Hill, near Medford line.

Thomas Patten was sent to remove the town's supply on August 27. His services cost five shillings. Three days after, General Gage sent the troops out from Boston and carried all the ammunition that remained to Castle William.

This act of Gage caused great indignation, and whatever element of conservatism remained was speedily swept away.

Benjamin Hall, the chief business man of Medford, was chosen to represent the town in the General Court, which held its last meeting in Boston March 31, 1774. On June 1 General Gage transferred the government to Salem, and appointed the Assembly to meet June 7. The meeting on that day was so revolutionary that Gage sent his secretary to dissolve it; but he was forced to read his proclamation on the stairs, for the patriots were holding their session behind locked doors.

Gage called another meeting of the Assembly for October 5, but countermanded the order. The patriots ignored his right to do this, and ninety Representatives met and formed themselves into a Provincial Congress.

They appointed Benjamin Hall a member of the Committee of Supplies. Flour, rice, pease, pickaxes, saws, cartridge-paper, and other necessaries were shipped to Concord and Worcester.

In November seven cannon were bought, and Mr. Gill and Mr. Benjamin Hall were desired to get them out of Boston to some place in the country. This was a hazardous undertaking. The guns were loaded with other goods, concealed in loads of hay and wood, and in other ingenious ways the strict watch of the guards was

evaded. It seems probable that these cannon were stored in Medford, for April 28, 1775, the Committee of Safety ordered: "That the cannon now in Medford be immediately brought to this town (Cambridge) under direction of Captain Foster." In the following March (1775) Hall sent to Concord 60 bbls. of pork, 50 axes and helves, 50 wheelbarrows, and materials for constructing barracks.

The first mention of a Committee of Correspondence on the Town Records occurs under date of March 13, 1775; but, six months before, Moses Billings, tavern-keeper, was paid for entertaining the Committee of Correspondence 40 shillings. Doubtless the discussions were not dry!

Those were by no means total-abstinence days. All conferences were accompanied by more or less wine-drinking. The following bill, dated 1783, is an illustration:

Mrs. Martha Leverett ye Administratrix to ye late Thomas Leverett, deceased,

To John Stratton, Dr.

The following was for ye commissioners for settling said Thomas Leverett's Estate.

1783.

June 3d. To Punch and Wine 12s. Room, Candles, paper, Ink, pipes, 7s. 4d.

" 12th. " 7 Bowles of Punch at ye Sale 34s. Room, paper Ink, &c., 4s. 8d.

July 1. " Punch and Wine 12s. Room, Candles, paper, Ink, pipes, 7s. 4d.

" 24. " 8 Bowles of Punch at ye Sale 40s. Room, paper, Ink &c., 4s. 8d.

August 5. " Punch and Wine 12s. Room, Candles, pipes 7s. 4d.

Benjamin Hall was the chairman of the Committee of Correspondence in 1775. The other members were Ebenezer Brooks, Jr., Thomas Patten, Stephen Hall,

3d, or Tertius, as he was familiarly called, James Wyman, Deacon Isaac Warren, and Deacon Samuel Kidder. Benjamin Hall lived in what was later called the "Dr. Swan House," and his place of business was the distillery and adjacent buildings, consisting of a candle-house, cooper's shop, etc. With our modern ideas of street lines we have wondered why each of the old houses on High street projected farther into the street than its neighbor on the east. This was to obtain an unobstructed view of the market-place from the end window of each house. People built houses very nearly where they pleased in those days — even placing them back to the street if their taste dictated.

Stephen Hall, Tertius, lived in the vicinity of Allston street, West Medford. James Wyman was the Town Treasurer, a man who "bore the burden and heat of the day" during the war. With an empty treasury, he was constantly instructed to borrow, borrow, borrow. He quitted office in 1778, and at that time received £10-6-8, "for his extraordinary services and expense as Treasurer." Ebenezer Brooks, Jr., was a half brother of Governor Brooks. He died in September, 1775. Deacon Kidder died in 1777. For years before his day, and almost continuously since, there has been a Deacon Kidder in Medford. The one who bears the title to-day is his great-grandson.

By order of the Provincial Congress, companies of minute-men had been formed in all the towns, and were composed of some of their best citizens.

A journal of the day said that to be a private in them was an honor; to be chosen an officer was a mark of highest distinction. Capt. Isaac Hall, the commander of the Medford minute-men, was a brother of Benjamin Hall, the Representative, and Richard Hall, the Town Clerk. He was in business with the former.

His lieutenant was Caleb Brooks, brickmaker, a half brother of Dr. John Brooks. Ensign Stephen Hall was the eldest son of Stephen Hall, Tertius. He was born

Jan. 3, 1745, and died at Revere in 1817. His granddaughter said of him: "I remember my grandfather well; he lived and died at my father's, and I never can forget his life and counsel; he was very exemplary in his daily life, and dearly did I love him; he was a large man of very dignified appearance."

Thomas Bradshaw, private, was the proprietor of the Fountain House. His daughter married Thatcher Magoun, Sr. There were nine Tuftses in the company, all kinsmen. Seven of them were voters in 1776–7. James Tufts, Jr., was a potter in later years. The land on which his shop stood, between the river and Tufts place, is owned by his grandsons to-day. Daniel Tufts lived opposite the Powder House, on land set off to Charlestown in 1811.

One hundred twenty-three years ago to-night a feeling of excitement and suspense pervaded the town. People who came out from Boston through the day brought vague rumors of another excursion planned by the British. Where were they going? Concord? Which way would they take? were the questions asked in the taverns and streets. Evening brought no definite news. When Samuel Wakefield, the sexton, rang the nine o'clock bell the fires were banked, the candles were put out one by one, and the people went to bed; but some were restless and wakeful. Hark! "A clatter of hoofs in the village street!" Men sprang up and threw the windows wide. Paul Revere had come to summon them to arms.

But why did he not go to Lexington by the road he knew the British were to follow, instead of taking time to arouse one little village, off the line of march?

His own account says that when just outside Charlestown Neck, on the road to Cambridge, two British officers suprised him, and tried to seize his horse. In an instant Revere thought of the Medford road which he had passed a moment before. Suddenly wheeling, he dashed back toward Winter Hill, and was well on

his way to Medford before the astonished horsemen had extricated themselves from a clay-pit in which they found themselves floundering.

Early on the morning of the 19th the minute-men were in motion. The company consisted of fifty-nine men. Tradition says that they joined Maj. John Brooks and the Reading men, encountered the British at Merriam's Corner, and pursued them to their boats. It was not strange that the Medford company should follow Major Brooks. He was a Medford boy, and only two years before had left the home of Dr. Simon Tufts, where he was educated, to practice medicine in Reading. Probably some of the men had been drilled by him in school-boy days in the vacant lot back of the doctor's house.

Scarcely can we imagine the excitement of that day. The regulars had started on their second expedition, and this time they would not return unmolested. The flower of the town had marched away. The old men and boys could not restrain themselves. They followed on, and the women waited.

Abigail Brooks, the wife of Rev. Edward Brooks, bade her husband good-by as with gun on his shoulder he rode off toward Lexington. Outstripping those on foot, he pressed forward to Concord, and was in the fight at the bridge. Here he saved the life of Lieut. Edward Thornton Gould, of His Majesty's Eighteenth Regiment, and brought him a prisoner to Medford, where he remained several months. The lieutenant testified the next day:

"I am now treated with the greatest humanity and taken all possible care of by the Provincials at Medford."

In the afternoon the sound of firing came nearer. In her home in West Medford Abigail Brooks heard it, and taking her little eight-year-old son, Peter Chardon, to the garret window, showed him the bayonets shining in the sun, as the British hurried through Menotomy. The white face of his mother, the gleaming bayonets,

the rattle of musketry, and the anxiety for his absent father made a lasting impression on the boy's mind. By and by the shots grew fainter, and tired stragglers began to pass. Abigail Brooks had a great iron kettle hung under the elm-tree which you can see to-day, and served chocolate to all who wished it. The stately lady, the granddaughter of Rev. John Cotton, serving these battle-stained men, makes a picture which Medford people cannot afford to forget.

Rev. Edward Brooks, the dignified clergyman, Henry Putnam, the veteran of Louisburg, and his grandson, the drummer boy, represent all classes who, as volunteers, hastened to the conflict. Most of them returned, but Henry Putnam gave his life at Menotomy, and tradition says two men named Smith and Francis were victims of the fight.

The minute-men brought home one of their number mortally wounded. He was William Polly, the son of Widow Hannah Polly. He was only eighteen years old.

Henry Putnam earned the title of lieutenant during the Louisburg campaign. On account of his age he was exempt, but, as his great-grandson says, "he showed his Putnam spunk" and went with the rest. His son Eleazer was one of the Medford minute-men, and another son, Henry, of the Danvers company, was brought to Medford wounded. Henry Jr.'s wife was a Putnam born. She had three brothers in the battle. One of them was killed and another wounded.

Stifling her grief, she came to Medford to nurse her husband. When preparations were on foot for the Battle of Bunker Hill he had partially recovered, but had not returned to the ranks. On the morning of June 17 his wife drove him in a wagon to where his company was stationed, and left him, hardly daring to hope that he would come through the action alive. But he did good service that day, and served through the siege. Did the men have all the heroism in those days?

The news of the battle flew like wildfire. New

Hampshire was aroused, and sent men pouring into Massachusetts. Col. John Stark established headquarters at the Admiral Vernon Tavern, which stood on the east side of Main street, on the corner of Swan street. It was destroyed in the great fire of 1850. Later, he occupied the Royall House. The New Hampshire soldiers assembled in Medford, and enlisted there in the service of Massachusetts Colony. The men were recruited in a tavern having a large hall. The only one of that description was Hezekiah Blanchard's, at the sign of the anchor, on the west side of Main street, about one hundred feet south of the bridge.

Half of it was removed about fifty years ago, and made into a dwelling. It is still standing, and is numbered 133 and 135 Main street.

We have record of only one business man of Medford who was a Tory. This was Joseph Thompson, brickmaker. He left town, and the Committee of Safety took charge of his house and lands, leasing them to trusted patriots, and thereby guarding his widowed mother against trouble from reckless young fellows who were inclined to damage Tory property.

Colonel Royall, who had been a member of the Provincial Governor's Council, became panic-stricken when war seemed inevitable. The winter before he nearly made up his mind to stand for his country, but, overruled by his Tory relatives and friends, he lost faith in the American cause. He determined to return to his birthplace at the West Indies, but was prevented by the Battle of Lexington. He was in Boston when the battle occurred. He dared not return home, he dared not stay in the town, so he hastened to Newburyport and took passage for Halifax. From there he went to England.

He bitterly repented his course; but he was an absentee, and his property was confiscated.

By the good offices of Dr. Simon Tufts his estate was kept together. He died in England in 1781. By

will he left a silver cup to the church in Medford. A special act of the Legislature was necessary before it could be delivered. He bequeathed to the town a piece of land in Granby upon which $100 was realized. His estate was not settled until 1805.

A man of great hospitality, charity, and charm of manner, Colonel Royall lacked the firmness which the times necessitated. He was never considered an active enemy of the Colonies, but the principle of the times was, "Who is not for us is against us."

After the Battle of Lexington the British were completely surrounded on the land side. They, however, held the harbor and the rivers Mystic and Charles.

Men-of-war were ordered up these rivers as far as the tide would allow.

Cannon were ordered to be placed on Bunker Hill to annoy the enemy if they attempted to go to Medford by water.

A company of militia was raised in the town, and was instructed to remain there till further orders, "holding themselves ready to march at a minute's notice."

The General Court ordered that all the cattle on Hog, Snake, and Noddle's Islands should be driven back into the country. The Selectmen of Malden, Chelsea, Lynn, and Medford were given charge of this work, with authority to draw on the troops quartered in Medford as they might consider necessary.

This refers to the New Hampshire men under Sargent and Stark.

We have no positive record that the Medford company was under fire at the Battle of Bunker Hill, but we know that after the British landed their regiment was stationed in the road leading to Lechmere Point, and late in the day was ordered to Charlestown. On arriving at Bunker Hill (the real Bunker Hill) General Putnam ordered part of the regiment to throw up entrenchments there; another detachment went to the rail fence with the New Hampshire men; and a third,

with their colonel, went to the redoubt. After the battle they slept on their arms at Prospect Hill.

Three Medford men were under Stark : Rev. David Osgood, chaplain; Daniel Reed, drummer; and Robert Bushby.

Although Medford was not the scene of battle, she was near enough to experience the excitement and bitterness of war. We can imagine the people huddled in little groups on Pasture Hill, or on the marshes, hearing the boom of cannon, seeing the smoke of burning Charlestown, but, on account of the position of Bunker and Breed's hills, seeing only a part of the actual battle.

In the afternoon Major M'Clary, of Epsom, N.H., came galloping back to town for bandages.

He had scant time to answer the numberless questions of the people who crowded around him.

Putting spurs to his horse, he hurried back, only to fall a victim to the murderous fire from the ships in the river, as he crossed Charlestown Neck.

His retreating comrades found his body, from which his pistols and valuables had been stolen.

They brought him back to Medford and buried him with honors of war.

At twilight the wounded were brought into town. A hospital was improvised in a large open space near where the engine-house now stands. The women of the town, who had been busy all day caring for the refugees from Charlestown who had reached Medford, now gave their services for the wounded.

In suspense as to the fate of their own husbands and sons, it was a blessing to do something for their New Hampshire comrades.

Among these faithful women was Sarah Bradlee Fulton, who later proved her bravery by carrying despatches into Boston during the siege, making the journey on foot at dead of night.

In 1849 the graves of twenty-five soldiers of the Revolution, supposed to be New Hampshire men, were found

on Water street by laborers digging a cellar. The bodies were removed to the Salem-street cemetery by the sexton, Mr. Jacob Brooks. When an old man, he took his grandson, Mr. Vining, to the spot and said: "Here is where the Revolutionary soldiers are laid. Somebody will want to know sometime."

After the battle of June 17 Winter Hill was occupied by Provincial troops, who immediately set about fortifying it. They had few implements to work with, having lost a large part of their scanty store at Charlestown. June 22 the General Court sent a message requesting the town of Medford "to immediately supply Major Hale with as many spades and shovels as they can spare, as it is of importance to the safety of this Colony that the works begun on Winter Hill be finished, and that they will be retarded unless soon supplied with tools."

The months between June, 1775, and March, 1776, when Boston was evacuated, were full of alarms. The enemy were expected to march out at any time. General Washington ordered, July 12, that one thousand men should be stationed in and about Medford, considering that number sufficient for the time being.

Skirmishes on the Mystic were common. Men hardly dared to have their muskets out of their sight. Busy about his work, some one hears a shot. Hark! Another! Work is suspended and excitement reigns. The drums beat at the barracks, a relief detachment is sent out, and after some sharp firing the enemy retreats under cover of the ships.

As the cold weather came on, fuel became scarce in both the Continental and British camps. The English tore down buildings to supply firewood. The people of Medford cut down the "white pine trees which his Majesty had reserved for his royal navy" and other trees on Pine hill and supplied the Continental army. Thomas Brooks, Esq., furnished the troops on Winter Hill with wood from his own farm.

Capt. Isaac Hall and his company enlisted for eight months after the Battle of Lexington. Some of the men never returned to remain permanently in town until the close of the war.

Forty-five Medford men, twenty-five of whom were minute-men, belonged to the company. The captain resigned in September, 1775, and formed another company.

Each man, on enlistment, was promised a coat or its equivalent in money. The Committee of Supplies ordered 1,300 coats made by a certain pattern, with pewter buttons, on which was stamped the number of the regiment. This was the first attempt at a uniform for the army. Medford women spun, wove, and made 60 of these coats.

Two Medford men, Richard Cole and Joshua Reed, Jr., enlisted in September for the ill-fated expedition to Quebec, under Arnold. The troops marched from Cambridge September 13, and camped that night in Medford. They then marched to Newburyport, where they took transports for the Kennebec.

On their march through the wilderness they were overtaken by a storm which ruined a large part of their provisions. The advance guard reached settlements October 30, and sent back supplies, which came none too soon, for the men were in a starving condition. When the remnants of Montgomery's and Arnold's armies appeared before Quebec, Dec. 5, 1775, they were defeated.

Although the Cambridge detachment was in the thick of the fight, Joshua Reed and Richard Cole were fortunate to escape capture. The former applied for a bounty coat Jan. 10, 1776, and the latter February 26. Their comrade in Captain Hall's company, Samuel Ingalls, of Stoneham, was not so fortunate. Captain Hall's petition in his favor tells his story:

"MEDFORD, October 25th, 1776.

"This may Certifie that Mr. Samoel Engols Belonged To my Company in 1775 and has Bin a presoner in Cannedy and haint Receved No Coate

"ISAAC HALL, Captain."

"Samuel Ingall's received his coat money, Oct. 30, 1776."

While these men were enduring hunger, cold, and pestilence in Canada the army at home were drawing their lines closer and closer around the enemy at Boston.

Captain Hall's company was ordered to Dorchester Heights; fifteen men at least were in Capt. Stephen Dana's company at "The Lines." Capt. Caleb Brooks was at Prospect Hill. A few other men were at Fort No. 3.

March 17, 1776, the enemy, seeing the determined attitude of the Provincials, sailed for Halifax. I suppose this is the origin of the expression, "Sent to Halifax."

A few sail remained in the bay. Medford men assisted in building fortifications on Noddle's Island, and June 13 were stationed behind them. The united efforts of all the towns around the harbor succeeded, that day, in ridding its waters of the last of the fleet.

As soon as Boston was evacuated Washington transferred his army to New York, leaving only three regiments on guard. Maj. John Brooks, Thomas Pritchard, and a few others from Medford went with him.

At the town-meeting held June 13, 1776, it was unanimously resolved, "If the Honorable Continental Congress, for the safety of the United Colonies, declare themselves independent of the Kingdom of Great Britain, the inhabitants of this town will solemnly engage with their lives and fortunes to support the measure." In the Town Records the Declaration of Independence is given in full immediately after the report of this meeting. The document was not received

in Medford until September. Sabbath morning, September 8, Parson Osgood read from the pulpit the momentous words which freed the Colonies from the mother country.

On the day when the Declaration was adopted the voters of Medford were conferring about bounty, which was to be paid to thirty men called for to go to Canada. With reports of Canadian defeats, and the personal experiences of their townsmen fresh in their minds, men were slow to come forward, in spite of bounty offered by town and province. Armed with authority to offer £8 per man to all who would enlist, and to pay each $2 at time of enlistment, Lieut. Moses Tufts and Samuel Tufts went out into "Hampshire County and elsewhere" to hire the men. The treasury was empty, and the Town Treasurer was empowered to borrow £240 to pay the men. Benjamin Hall loaned £66–13–4, Richard Hall, £53–6–8, and Stephen Hall, Tertius, £120. This did not prove enough, and £226–5–4 was raised by private subscription. Seventy-four men contributed sums varying from £24 to £1. The Canadian army having retired to Crown Point, these recruits were sent to Ticonderoga.

After the defeat of the army at Long Island, alarm men were called for. September 23 thirteen men marched to New York, and served about two months. We have not found the name of one of these men. Drafts followed thick and fast. In November and December men were called for. Some of those drawn enlisted for the war. Others paid substitutes. At that time every fifth man was ordered into the army, either for home defence or in New York. Men were suffering from camp distemper at Ticonderoga; Forts Washington and Lee had been evacuated; the time of many of the troops had expired. The outlook was dark. December 3 the voters met at the meeting-house to draft men and raise money. Washington's victory at Trenton revived the courage of the people, and his

call for enlistments, for three years or the war, was nobly responded to. A town-meeting was called March 3, 1777, in Medford, to consider means for raising her quota. The people were beginning to feel the stress of poverty, and many were clamoring for payment of money loaned to the town. The Selectmen were instructed "to procure the men at as low bounty as may be." Moses and William Bucknam enlisted on the day of the meeting; five or six had enlisted in the artillery during the preceding month. In July, 1777, Medford had forty-four men in the army for three years or the war.

The summer passed peacefully at home: the coffee-drinkings, the dinner parties, the weekly lecture, which in those days took the place of the prayer-meeting, went on as usual. Even a wedding or two occurred. But the thoughts of the people were ever on the war. The knitting-needles were busy, the spinning-wheels were humming, and garments were being made for the soldiers. The men were taking care that the town's stock of powder did not run low. Lieut. Stephen Hall, 4th, and Lieut. Jonathan Porter were keeping the ranks of their company full, and drilling the new recruits who had taken the places of those who entered the army in the spring.

July brought bad news. Ticonderoga was evacuated. At first only a rumor, the news was speedily confirmed by a letter from Dr. Osgood's brother, who was one of the garrison. The retreating army was overtaken at Hubbardton, Vt., and there Col. Ebenezer Francis, a Medford boy, whose home was then in Beverly, was killed. He had organized his regiment the previous January, and marched to Bennington; and from there to New York State.

On the 25th of September news of the first day's battle at Saratoga came to Medford. It had been fought on the 17th. Nearly every man who was in service from the town was in Gates's army. You

who remember the Civil War know the thrill which swept over the town when the news arrived. Little cared the people that day for the disagreements of Arnold and Gates. They asked for the safety of John Brooks, Francis Tufts, John Le Bosquet, and the rest.

News came soon which made Medford proud. Lieutenant-Colonel Brooks and his regiment had been the last on the field — not leaving it until eleven o'clock at night. During the evening they had kept Breyman's riflemen at bay. The British had not advanced; the Americans held their own. "It is what we expected of John Brooks," his townsmen said, "and the Medford boys will follow wherever he leads."

October 7th Burgoyne was obliged to fight or retreat. When the battle was at its height, Brooks again distinguished himself. He has been called the "Hero of Stillwater." His regiment was ordered to take a redoubt occupied by Breyman. He ordered Captain Bancroft, of Reading, to lead the charge. Well he knew the men selected for that perilous duty. They were his neighbors of Reading and Medford. Not hesitating for an instant, Bancroft waved his sword and cried, "Come on, boys, and enter that fort!" Then leading the way he and his company went over the parapet. Surprised at the suddenness of the assault, the enemy wavered, and the whole regiment rushed into the fort.

The names of the men who made that gallant charge should be cherished in Medford history beside that of their brave leader. They were William Cutter, Francis Tufts, Aaron Tufts, George Tufts, Daniel Bailey, John Le Bosquet, Henry Le Bosquet, and John Le Bosquet, Jr.

And just here a Medford tradition must be modified. The History of Medford says that Sergt. Francis Tufts was promoted to adjutant, on the field at White Plains. This cannot be true, for, at that time, he was at Ticon-

deroga. On Oct. 7, 1777 (the day of the Battle of Stillwater), he was promoted to ensign, so we can save the story, but change the scene. Francis Tufts, at Stillwater, seeing the standard-bearer fall, caught up the flag and holding it high in air bore it at the head of the regiment over the redoubt. He was commissioned ensign that day by General Gates. Afterward he received several promotions and was made adjutant in 1780.

The day after the battle General Gates determined to attack Burgoyne, and sent General Nixon against what he supposed was a detachment of the enemy, but which proved to be the main army. Warned at the last moment, Gates recalled his men. Thankful, indeed, was Medford when the news reached here, for more than half of her men were in Nixon's brigade.

Burgoyne surrendered. His army was sent captive to Massachusetts. The officers were placed on parole. The Hessians were quartered at Winter Hill; the English at Cambridge, in the barracks occupied by the Americans during the siege of Boston.

Porter's tavern, in Medford, which stood at the corner of Main and Ship streets (then the driftway leading to the distillery), was a favorite resort for British and Hessian officers. These men were very respectfully treated by the inhabitants. Dr. Osgood frequently received the Hessian chaplain. Benjamin Hall entertained him at dinner, and English officers were frequent guests at tea-drinkings and parties. Old-fashioned hospitality would not refuse to make endurable the enforced stay of their conquered enemies.

Some of the Hessians made the vicinity of Boston their permanent home. One Huffmaster has descendants in this city.

After the surrender of Burgoyne most of the Northern army was ordered South to join Washington.

Those Medford men who were in Colonel Greaton's regiment remained at Albany.

Captain Bancroft and his company, under Lieutenant-

Colonel Brooks, went to Valley Forge. Bancroft wrote in January, 1777: "I hope, sir, if my family should stand in need of your assistance you will be ready to afford it. It has been out of my power to do anything for them even so much as to send home any money. I was obliged to give half a dollar for one pint of bread and milk. Sweetening, butter, or cheese I have not had for over three months. We have hard trials to meet yet."

Afraid of causing anxiety at home, he refrains from telling the pitiful story of privation. The huts on the hillsides of Valley Forge were fourteen feet by sixteen, with side-walls six and a half feet high. A hut was allowed to the commissioned officers of two companies. The huts assigned to non-commissioned officers and privates sheltered twelve men — a space three feet by six to each man.

Clothing was so scarce that those on guard borrowed from those off duty. For weeks in succession men were on half allowance — for four or five days being without bread, and then as many more without meat.

The unusually severe winter which made Burgoyne's army shiver and complain of ill-treatment at Winter Hill made the condition of the Continentals at Valley Forge almost unendurable.

In February, 1778, Rev. Edward Brooks came home from captivity at Halifax. He had been chaplain of the frigate "Hancock," built at Newburyport by order of Congress in December, 1775. She had been taken by the British man-of-war "Rainbow" renamed the "Iris," and attached to the British fleet. Mr. Brooks was "exchanged for Parson Lewis," a British chaplain, and left Halifax on the "Favorite," Jan. 29, 1778. While in Nova Scotia he had the small-pox. He was not strong when commissioned; he returned with health hopelessly shattered.

It is said that a large proportion of the graduates of Harvard became Tories. David Osgood and Edward Brooks were exceptions.

At the time of the Revolution several gentlemen in Medford owned slaves. They were uniformly well treated. Mr. Zachariah Pool owned a slave named Scipio. In his will Mr. Pool left money to Benjamin Hall and others, in trust, for Scipio's support.

He was boarded with a family of free negroes, and when he died his guardians followed him to the grave. This story was told me by one of Mr. Pool's descendants, and is in contradiction of Mrs. Lydia Maria Child's version, in one of her books, which says that Scipio was *sold* at the settlement of the estate. The negro's name appears on the tax list in 1778.

Prince was a negro servant of Stephen Hall, Esq. He married Chloe, the servant of Richard Hall, in 1772. An amusing story is told of Prince's struggle with a sixty-five-pound bass in Mystic river, at low tide. The negro tried to carry the fish to land in his arms. Two trials proved failures, but the third was successful. Prince thought his prize worthy to be presented to the commander at Winter Hill. He dressed the fish, and putting on his best clothes, borrowed his master's wagon, and drove to headquarters with his present. He was rewarded with — six cents! That this extreme liberality did not make a Tory of him is shown by his subsequent career. He ran away and enlisted, March 31, 1777, for the war.

Slaves who enlisted with the consent of their masters became free at once.

As Prince was a runaway, his master probably claimed him, and he returned to Medford in the early part of 1778. In June, 1778, he went into the army again for nine months, this time with the consent of Mr. Hall, for on May 25 Prince signed the following receipt: "Received of the Town of Medford, by Richard Hall $35 in part for my bounty from said town which I promise to march to join the army for nine months for said town, when called for, as witness my hand, Prince Hall."

Prince was thirty years old and was five feet five

inches tall. As he signed his name in a legible hand, — more than a great many of the recruits could do, — his master had not neglected his education.

Several negroes served as soldiers for Medford. In 1780 six out of fourteen men who enlisted were colored. Thomas Revallean gained his freedom, as a soldier. He came to Medford after the war, and his family lived on Cross street. His wife was a pensioner. Two of his grandsons were taken prisoners, and were held as slaves in Texas for two years and a half, during the Civil War.

In 1778, besides the three years' men and the militia guarding troops of Convention at Cambridge, Medford had sixteen men in the Continental Army in New York and Rhode Island. The next year, twenty-two.

Seven men, who served for three months in New Jersey, were entirely lost sight of until last October, when an old book and a receipt were discovered at City Hall which gave their names and the amount of bounty paid them. One of them was Hezekiah Blanchard, Jr., the tavern-keeper, who has numerous descendants among the people of Medford.

The Continental money had depreciated to such an alarming degree that those who were fortunate enough to have anything to sell would travel miles to obtain hard money, and refuse to supply their next door neighbors, who had only currency.

Such exorbitant prices were demanded that the authorities established a price-list which should govern all traders. So many people were disinclined to take paper money, that orders were given that those who refused it should be posted as enemies to the country. Poverty made creditors no respecters of persons.

No less a man than Col. John Brooks, when at home on a furlough, was arrested for a family debt, not of his own contracting, and taken to jail at Cambridge. His friends came to his assistance, and he was not allowed to remain over night.

The scale of depreciation can be understood by noticing the value of stockings. In hard money a pair was worth 5s. In currency (1780) they were worth £15. Capt. Ebenezer Hall received £270 for eighteen pairs of stockings. This amount in hard money paid nine years' rent of the Garrison House, 1777 to 1786.

The men who enlisted in 1776 and 7 were discharged at the end of the year 1779. The story of John Symmes is an example of the situation of all.

He came home ragged and emaciated. He was paid in depreciated money, with which he bought a yoke of oxen. He sold them and took pay in the same currency. This he kept for a short time and then paid it all for a bag of Indian meal.

Sept. 23, 1779, the famous naval engagement between the "Bon Homme Richard" and the "Serapis" occurred. One little powder boy had a leg shot off that day, but lived in Medford during the memory of some of our oldest residents. His name was William Earl. He was a tailor. His shop was on the easterly corner of Brooks lane, in the old building torn down last winter. The children, going by, peeped in at him as he sat stitching and singing. His cheerful face never forbade them. They called him "One-legged Earl." He died in 1821.

In 1780 Medford had sixteen six-months' men in the field. They were fitted out by the town with clothing and blankets. Wool was bought at the town's expense, and was spun and woven by the women.

The poor received compensation, if possible in coin. Others gave their work. The men enlisted on July 4 (a patriotic celebration of Independence Day).

Among them was Thomas Savels, who had served as a minute-man, and was a veteran of the New York campaigns.

It is said that he was the son-in-law of Col. Isaac Royall. His son Thomas, at his father's death, changed his name to Sables. Thomas Savels the soldier has numerous descendants in Medford.

Aaron Tufts and William Bucknam were also veterans, and had been honorably discharged from the army six months before.

William Polly, a youth of nineteen, had served three months in New Jersey, in 1779. He was a kinsman of William Polly who was shot at Lexington. The youngest in this levy was sixteen years old — Josiah Cutter, 2d. There were seven others under twenty-one.

While these men were in service, Arnold's treason and the execution of André occurred. The Medford men were stationed on guard duty at North river.

William Bucknam was promoted and served as sergeant. His name is on the muster-roll dated Tappan. At this place André was executed, and it is probable that Bucknam stood with the troops drawn up to witness the ignoble death of that brave man.

When the six-months' men were discharged they were each given a passport bearing the signature of the colonel to show they were not deserters, and to recommend them to the charity of the farmers, whose help they needed. Some barefooted, others nearly so, ragged and dirty, they set out for their walk of over two hundred miles. They were absolutely penniless. The December weather made their condition worse, but they pushed on, receiving kindness everywhere. A night's lodging, a meal, and the luxury of the chimney corner were readily granted by people who had hardly more money than they. When they did receive their tardy pay it was in worthless bills.

Medford not being a seaport, we hardly expect to find record of privateers, but a little document has been saved which is probably the last of several of the same kind. I will read it, supplying the words which the ragged edges have lost:

"SALEM, July 29, 1782. — These may certify that I, John Savage, Commander of the galley Willing Maid, now in Salem, bound on a cruise against the enemies of

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"SALEM, July 29, 1782. — These may certify that I, John Savage, Commander of the galley Willing Maid, now in Salem, bound on a cruise against the enemies of

the country for six weeks, have sold to Benjamin Hall of Medford, three quarters of one full share of all prizes, goods, naval or merchandise taken by said galley during said cruise, for the sum of twelve pounds now in hand to me paid by the said Benjamin Hall, the receipt whereof I hereby acknowledge, as witness my hand and seal, in guarantee. JOHN SAVAGE."

Witnesses, Jonathan Webb and Ephraim Hall.

Benjamin Hall was, like other men of means in his day, interested in underwriting, and assumed risks individually, as there were no marine insurance companies. Losses were frequent during the war, and the premiums were fabulous, — the usual rate being about forty-five per cent., but in some cases rising to seventy per cent.

Insurance on privateers was effected by making over to the underwriter a certain per cent. of the prize money. In 1776 Captain Hall insured three sloops for one hundred pounds each. Two were lost. The third, the "Rover," made a successful cruise, and Mr. Hall received ninety pounds in prize money.

The times proved too much for the capitalist before the war was over. In 1784 he said, "When the war began, I would not have exchanged property with any man in the county of Middlesex, but now I am worth nothing."

As a paper has already been read before you in which Governor Brooks has been spoken of at length, I have devoted very little time to him to-night, but I wish to say that the more I study his military and private life, the more I venerate and admire him.

Medford may feel honored for all time, to count among her sons this friend of Lafayette and George Washington.

One by one the landmarks of the olden time have disappeared. A few are left — among them the Watson House, where General Brooks entertained Washing-

ton in 1789; the Royall House, one of the centres of Colonial splendor; and the Garrison House, where Benjamin Hall, Jr., took his bride in 1777, and which was called the "old brick house" long before that day.

The site where we meet to-night was the home in the days of the Revolution of Ebenezer Hall, the baker. He was a faithful civil officer in the patriot cause.

And just across the street, under the budding trees, we see the graves of those whose hearts beat fast with patriotic fervor on that eighteenth of April one hundred twenty-three years ago.

There they rest — the Committee of Safety, the Representatives to the General Court, the heroes of Stillwater, the patriot preachers, the minute-men, and the heroic women, side by side.

Over their graves waves the Star Spangled Banner, without a stripe lost and with many stars gained since they fought and suffered beneath its folds.

May we preserve what they began!

> "A union of States none can sever,
> A union of hearts and a union of hands,
> And the flag of our Union forever."

SARAH BRADLEE FULTON CHAPTER, D.A.R.

OFFICERS FOR 1899.

Regent	Mrs. Mary B. Loomis.
Vice-Regent	Miss Ella L. Burbank.
Chaplain	Mrs. Sarah E. Fuller.
Secretary	Miss Helen T. Wild.
Registrar	Mrs. Emma W. Goodwin.
Treasurer	Miss Sarah L. Clark.
Historian	Miss Eliza M. Gill.

EXECUTIVE BOARD.

Mrs. Hannah E. Ayers.
Mrs. C. Edith Kidder.
Mrs. A. H. Evans.

NOTES.

Names of those whose graves were marked by the Historical Society, April 19, 1898:

John Blanchard,
Thomas Bradshaw,
Thomas Binford,
Capt. Caleb Brooks,
Lt.-Col. John Brooks (received title "General" after close of war),
Rev. Edward Brooks (Chaplain),
Hezekiah Blanchard,
Hezekiah Blanchard, Jr.,
Jonas Dickson,
Benjamin Francis,
Benjamin Floyd,
Benjamin Floyd,
John Le Bosquet,
Rev. David Osgood (Chaplain),
John Oakes,
Lt. Jonathan Porter,
James Richardson,
John Stimson,
Johnes Symmes,
Thomas Savels or Sables,
Maj. Samuel Swan (received title after close of war),
Benjamin Tufts,
Samuel Tufts,
Samuel Tufts, 3d,
Corp. James Tufts, Jr.,
Samuel Teal,
Ebenezer Tufts,
Jonathan Tufts,
David Vinton.

Unknown soldiers, probably from New Hampshire or Maine, who died in Medford during siege of Boston.

Mr. John H. Hooper, whose portrait appears in this number of the Register, and whose article on the bridges in Medford will be found of valuable interest, is a recognized authority on the landmarks and boundary lines of Medford, his knowledge and experience having been gained by many years' connection with town affairs.

He was for ten years a member of the Board of Selectmen, acting as Chairman for eight years. Assessor for eighteen years, Chairman of the Board for fifteen years. Road Commissioner three years. On the Board of Health three years. Representative to the General Court four years. Moderator of twenty-seven town meetings, eleven of them being annual meetings, and has served on many committees.

Mr. Hooper is not a native of Medford, but is descended from the early settlers of the place.

One of his ancestors, Samuel Polley, who settled in Medford in 1708, married Elizabeth Hall, granddaughter of John Hall, who settled in Medford in 1675.

Mr. Hooper is also descended from the early settlers of Marblehead, his great-grandfather being the famous "King" Hooper of that town.

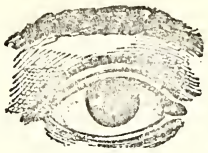
Miss Helen T. Wild, whose portrait also appears in this number, is the efficient secretary of Sarah Bradlee Fulton Chapter, D.A.R., as well as an active worker in the Historical Society. Her article on Medford in the War of the Revolution is of pleasing interest.

The opening meeting of the season, October 17, was a social occasion. The rooms were *cheerful* from blazing wood fires, and *brilliant* from electric lights, and the same adjectives might be applied, with due discrimination, to the members, who gathered in a goodly number.

Rev. Edward A. Rand, of Watertown, who was present as a guest, made one of his charming addresses, and refreshments were served during the evening at the pleasure of the individual.

Mrs. Mary B. Loomis, the newly elected regent of Sarah Bradlee Fulton Chapter, D.A.R., is a member of the Historical Society, and has contributed much to the social pleasure of the Saturday evening chats. We trust that her success with the *gavel* may equal her skill with the *chafing-dish*.

The title-page and table of contents for Vol. I. of the Register is issued with this number. It will be found of convenient use in binding.



IN YE OLDEN TIME

It didn't make so much difference if they couldn't see so well; but

MODERN REQUIREMENTS

call for GOOD VISION, and COMFORTABLE VISION, too.

Eyes tested by the most approved modern methods, and glasses accurately fitted.

8 MAIN STREET,
MEDFORD, MASS.

C. D. TUCKER,
Ophthalmic Refractionist and Optician.

Joel Goldthwait & Co.,

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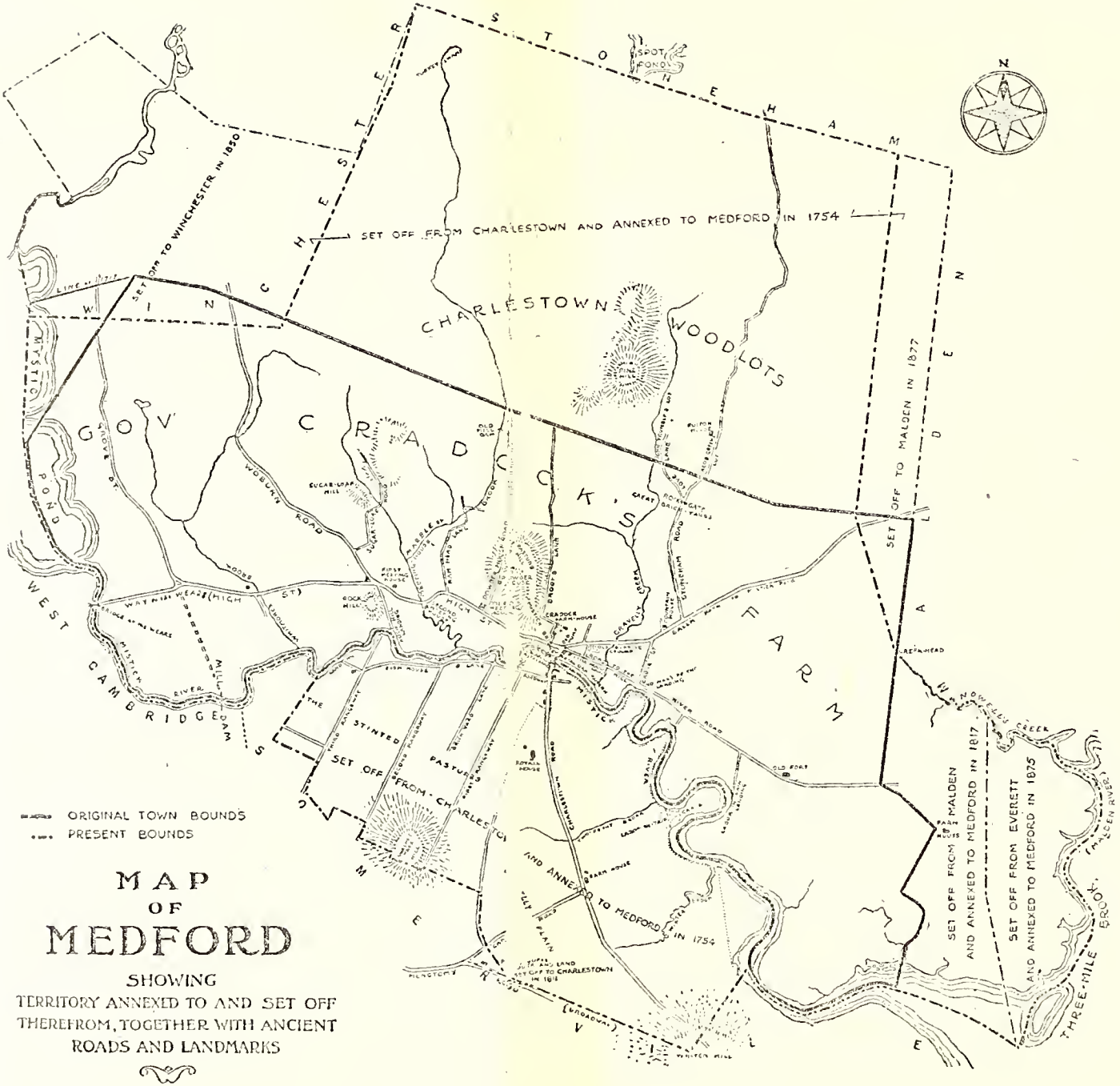
169 Washington Street,

Boston.

Goods delivered in Medford.

N
MEDFORD IN 1754
SET OFF TO MALDEN IN 1877
SET OFF FROM MALDEN AND ANNEXED TO MEDFORD IN 1817
SET OFF FROM EVERETT AND ANNEXED TO MEDFORD IN 1875
ODLOTS
FARM
POND
CREEK-HEAD
OLD FORT
THREE-MILE BROOK
(MALDEN RIVER)
ORIGINA
PRESEN
ME
754
TERRITORY A
THEREFROM,
ROAD


SET OFF TO WINCHESTER IN 1850
SET OFF FROM CHARLESTOWN AND ANNEXED TO MEDFORD IN 1754
CHARLESTOWN WOODLOTS
SET OFF TO MALDEN IN 1877
GOV. CRADDOCK'S FARM
WEST CAMBRIDGE
STINTED PASTURE
SET OFF FROM CHARLESTOWN AND ANNEXED TO MEDFORD IN 1754
SET OFF FROM MALDEN AND ANNEXED TO MEDFORD IN 1817
SET OFF FROM EVERETT AND ANNEXED TO MEDFORD IN 1875
THREE-MILE BROOK
ORIGINAL TOWN BOUNDS
PRESENT BOUNDS

MAP OF MEDFORD

SHOWING
TERRITORY ANNEXED TO AND SET OFF THEREFROM, TOGETHER WITH ANCIENT ROADS AND LANDMARKS

The Medford Historical Register.

VOL. II. APRIL, 1899. No. 2.

THE ROADS OF OLD MEDFORD.

BY JOHN H. HOOPER.

(*Read before the Medford Historical Society, Jan. 17, 1898.*)

THERE can be no doubt but that the early paths or roads of Old Medford were located substantially where our great highways now are, and it is probable that in many cases they followed the old Indian trails along the banks of the river and out into the country.

The territory about Mistick river was the favorite dwelling-place of the Pawtucket tribe of Indians, whose hunting-grounds extended as far east as Piscataqua, and as far north as Concord, on the Merrimac river.

The nearest, and in fact the principal, land route between Salem and the other settlements on the eastern coast of New England, and Charlestown, Boston, and the other settlements on the south shore of Massachusetts bay, was through Medford by the way of what are now known as Salem, South, and Main streets, crossing the river at the ford, or, after the building of Mistick bridge, over that bridge.

It is hardly possible that the ford could have been much used after the building of the bridge (at least while the bridge was passable). The rise of the tide from ten to twelve feet, twice in twenty-four hours, must have been a serious obstacle to its use, nor was it well adapted to the passage of teams, the landing-place on the north side of the river being quite steep.

The records of the town of Medford prior to the year 1674 having been lost or destroyed, and a portion of the records of the County Court of Middlesex being

also lost or destroyed, information concerning the early roads of Medford is scant and most unsatisfactory. Some information can, however, be gathered from the remaining county records, the records of other towns, and from deeds.

Salem street is shown upon a map supposed to have been made in the year 1633, and Main street and the Menotomy road (Broadway) on one made in 1637 (see "Historical Register" for October, 1898, pages 120 and 122). Salem street was spoken of as early as the year 1638, by the several names of "Salle path," "Salem path," "Salem highway," "The way to Mistick," and "Salem path to Mistick Ford." A portion of High street was also spoken of in the same year as the "Ware highway," and later as "The way to the Wears." The River road (a part of Riverside avenue) was referred to in a deed dated 1657 as "The common Highway leading from the Mansion House (Wellington) unto Charlestown Commons and Meadford House."

It may, therefore, be confidently asserted that Salem and Main streets, and a portion of South street, were among the first, if not the first, roads used in Medford, after the settlement of the colony. Indeed, of the six great highways that existed in Medford prior to the year 1700, viz., Main, Salem, High, Grove, and Woburn streets, and a portion of Riverside avenue, it is hard to tell as to which should be given the claim of priority. Perhaps Fulton street, or the Stoneham road, should have been included in the above list, although there is no evidence of its use throughout its entire length until a later period.

Woburn records say that on the 14th of the 7th month, 1646, "Edward Convers and Samuel Richardson are appointed to lay out a highway between this town and Mistick Bridge, being joined with some of Charlestown, and some of Mistick House."

Of the doings of this committee, or from what source their authority emanated, we are unable to determine

(probably from the County Court). It is interesting, however, to note that the town of Medford was represented by "some of Mistick House." (The County Courts were established in the year 1643; the records of Middlesex commence in the year 1649.)

June 21, 1659, the records of the County Court say that "The Court doth order that 4 persons, indifferently chosen, two of them in Watertown and two in Charlestown, to lay out the highway between Cambridge and Medford." This location cannot be determined; probably by the way of the mill on Mistick river, and very likely the first laying out of Grove street.

On June 16, 1663, a committee was appointed by the County Court to lay out a highway between Woburn and Cambridge, through Medford.

The records of the County Court, commencing in the year 1664 and running to October, 1671, having been destroyed by fire, the location of this way cannot be determined; probably it was by the way of the mill on Mistick river and over the present lines of Grove street.

Oct. 1, 1672, the County Court appointed a committee to lay out a highway between Cambridge and Medford, and April 1, 1673, the committee reported as follows: "To begin upon the County Highway at a certain brook running through and upon Simms his land, so as to run on the east side of Mistick Pond, as the highway now runs, until it comes to a certain Black Oak standing by an old ditch on the plain, and then to run down in the field to the mill, through Capt Tim Wheeler's land, and so to pass over the River, at and upon the dam that pertains to the mill. . . ."

From the above description we find that this way commenced at "Symmes Corner" in Winchester, running over the present location of Grove street upon the lines of a former highway; no doubt the way laid out in 1663, possibly in 1659. And we further find that there was a dam across Mistick river of sufficient width to allow of the passage of teams. The mill

spoken of was on the Arlington side of the river. (There were two mills, a corn and a fulling mill.) An ancient deed says they were in Mistick river, and according to other ancient deeds they were located a short distance west of Alewive brook, or Menotomy river.

Capt. Tim Wheeler was the son-in-law of Thomas Brooks, who, in company with Captain Wheeler, bought of Edward Collins, in the year 1660, 400 acres of land in Medford and Charlestown. They also bought of Mr. Collins an interest in the mills.

Dec. 23, 1673, the County Court appointed two committees — one to lay out a highway between Mistick bridge and Woburn, and the other to settle the highway from Cambridge to Malden, with instructions to the latter committee, "that where lands are fenced in, to stake out the road at least four rods wide, and where the land was low and wet, there to lay out the same six or more rods in breadth. . . ."

April 7, 1674. The committee to lay out the highway between Mistick bridge and Woburn made its report. It is impossible to tell from the description where this way was located; such landmarks as the "Halfway swamp," "Bare Hill," and "Elbow Hill" are mentioned. It probably includes substantially the laying out of the year 1646, and is no doubt the way from Woburn to Cradock bridge as it exists at the present day, through North Winthrop, Woburn, High, and Main streets.

On the above-mentioned day the committee appointed to settle the highway between Cambridge and Malden made its report: "From the new County road by the Slate Hill, over the sorrelly plain through Mr. Winthrop's farm to the road leading to Mistick Bridge, and from there over Gravelly Bridge, and to the left over the plains to Malden." A portion of this way includes the present location of Harvard street.

Dec. 16, 1684. The County Court appointed a committee to view the highway between Woburn and Mistick bridge, and to make returns of what they shall

find and do therein. This report was placed on file and is not to be found.

Aug. 22, 1695. "A complaint was made to the County Court about an incumbrance upon a Country Highway leading from Woburn to Cambridge, that was laid out Feb. 26, 1672, on the east side of Mistick Ponds. A warrant was issued to a committee to repair to said Highway as soon as may be, and remove any incumbrance that may be deemed a common nuisance. . . ." The committee reported, March 10, 1695–6, "that they had laid open the country road except a short space by the house of Caleb Brooks, he having planted an orchard thereon, which bears fruit, he promises to allow a free and convenient passage through his yard until the next County Court. . . ." On that same day William Johnson, Thomas Welsh, senior, and Matthew Johnson testified "that the said Highway from Woburn and Reding, running by Caleb Brooks' to Menotomy Mills and so on to Cambridge, according as the former committee appointed by the County Court laid it out, was improved as a Highway by Woburn and Charlestown, for many years before they laid it out." The return of the committee was considered by the Court: "It being an ancient Highway, saving that the way go through the orchard of Caleb Brooks, shall be through said Brooks his yard, it being judged by the Court to be the Country Highway, without any further compensation to be paid for it."

Mr. Charles Brooks, in his "History of Medford," says that the house of Caleb Brooks stood immediately in front of the Woburn road (Grove street). Assuming this to be the fact, it gives us a fairly correct idea where the road leading to the mill was situated. It ran through the yard of Mr. Brooks, following the same general course in which Grove street now runs, down to the river at a point near where Arlington street connects with Jerome street.

March 22, 1708–9. "Pursuant to a motion of the Sheriff

of Middlesex, referring to a County road that is needful to be laid out from Menotomy road, so across Menotomy fields, over the Ware, through Medford, to the place called Mr. Convers Mills in Woburn, the Court appointed a committee to enquire into the convenience of the Highway and whether it is needful. . . ."

July 8, 1709, the committee report "that having visited the road leading from Menotomy to Convers Mill in the township of Woburn, both in the Ancient road where Wheeler his mill formerly stood, and also the road leading through Adams his gate, leading by Mr. Jonathan Dunster over Mistick River, at a place commonly called the Wears. And we do judge it most convenient for the publick and least prejudicial to any private person, that said ancient road leading by said mill, cannot reasonably be made passable, but that the road leading from Adams his gate, is the most advantagious for the publick and least prejudicial to any particular person. And that the said road should be continued as it is now improved, allowing three rods in width from said gate to the northermost line in Simms his farm. . . ."

The Court thereupon issues an order for a jury to lay out the said highway, and on Oct. 25, 1709, the jury submitted their report: "Beginning at Adams his gate in said Menotomy, allowing three rods in breadth to the Wares, in the same place where the road now lyeth and hath been for a long time improved, . . . and from said Wares to Ebenezer Brooks his gate, by his gate as the way now lyeth, three rod, which is between said Brooks and Jno. Francis, bounded in said Francis his land, by stakes which we set up in some old post-holes, about six feet within said Francis fence as it now stands, and to extend into said Brooks his land, to the full extent of three rod, and from said Brooks his gate to Symms his farm three rod. . . . Reserving to Samuel Brooks his barn, one end of which stands in the Highway: while the said barn stands, and no longer."

Wheeler's mill had disappeared, and probably the dam was much out of repair; at all events, the ancient way was abandoned, and Mr. Ebenezer Brooks, who owned the land between High street and the river, no doubt soon obliterated all traces of it.

Mr. John Francis owned sixty acres of land, with house and farm buildings thereon. In Middlesex Deeds it is described as bounded west on Mistick river and the Great pond; south by a highway to the Wares; east by a roadway to Woburn; and north by a ditch and hedge (dated March 2, 1692).

In the year 1735 a highway was laid out from Stoneham to Medford, "from Spot Pond swamp to the County Road by the Brickyards in Medford." This way is now known as Fulton street.

Most, if not all, of these highways within the limits of Medford were laid out over ways already existing. It was the custom in those days of defining the bounds of a highway by means of a stump, a rock, or a marked tree. Such bounds soon disappeared and rendered a new laying out of the way necessary.

Medford roads were first mentioned in the county records on June 25, 1658: "Medford is enjoined to repair their highways before the next term of Court, on penalty of forty shillings."

Complaints were numerous thereafter in regard to the condition of these roads. March 13, 1704–5: "Capt. Peter Tufts and Stephen Willis, appear in Court to answer to defects in the way to Malden, they say that they are mending the way as fast as they can, and in regard to the defect north of Mistick Bridge, that they have mended the same."

Aug. 25, 1719, John Bradshaw, appearing in court to answer to complaints about a highway in Medford, answered "that to the best of his knowledge, the way is mended."

In the year 1769 the town of Medford being presented for not amending and repairing a highway in said town

leading to Stoneham, "come and say that they will not contend with the King.

"The Court having considered the same, order the said town to pay a fine of three shillings to be disposed of as the law directs, and that they pay fees and costs."

Travellers on these roads were subject to the annoyance of opening and closing gates that had been erected across the ways by individuals through whose farms they passed. The early records of Charlestown say that in the year 1648 "Mr. William Stitson be entreated to get a man to make up a fence of three rails and a gate at Mistick Bridge, to run from the river and over the highway to Mr. Winthrops' rails." And in 1658 "Mr. Richard Russell and Thomas Lynde, were appointed to agree with Mr. Collins, to make a gate upon Mistick Bridge, to secure our commons from any stray cattle, the charges to be borne by the proprietors of the commons."

In the year 1695 John Hall, Senior, was granted permission by the County Court to hang a gate at the end of his land, "that he may have the benefit of the improvements thereon." And in the year 1711 "John Usher be allowed to hang two gates in the roads within his farm, one on the road from Charlestown to Medford, and one on the road from Charlestown to Cambridge, for this year." Mr. John Usher owned a part of Governor Winthrop's "Ten Hills farm," the same estate afterwards in the possession of Col. Isaac Royall.

Colonel Royall maintained a gate across Harvard street, on the southerly limit of his farm, as late as the year 1771.

It is to be remembered that the part of Medford situated on the south side of Mistick river was within the limits of Charlestown until the year 1754.

In the records of the County Court, and in our own town records, may be found numerous references to encroachments upon our highways, taking into consideration the fact that most of our great highways

were laid out four rods in width, and comparing that width with their present width, it is not surprising that many complaints were made in regard to them. It required constant watchfulness on the part of the town authorities to prevent these encroachments, and many a valuable public right has been lost by long-continued neglect.

In addition to these highways there were local or private ways leading down to the river to the several landing-places. These ways were called proprietors' ways, and it is a matter of doubt as to the public ever having possessed any rights therein.

A portion of the way now known as Riverside avenue was known in early days as the River road, commencing at or near Cross street and running easterly across the boundary line between Medford and Charlestown (that part of Charlestown being afterwards set off to Malden) to Wilson's point, known in our day as Wellington.

That part of Riverside avenue between River street and Cross street was laid out in the year 1746, in order to make a convenient way to the tide mill.

The most easterly of the ways leading from the River road to the river is now known as Foster court, and the landing-place was called "Labor in vain Landing," it being opposite Labor in vain Point. There is some reason to believe that it was also called "Hall's Landing."

The next westerly landing was situated near the foot of Park street, and the way thereto was through land afterwards used by Mr. Thatcher Magoun as a shipyard.

The third and last landing-place east of the bridge was situated at the foot of Cross street and was called "No Man's Friend," and also "Wade's Landing." Charlestown laid out a way from this landing to its woodlots, on the northerly line of Mr. Cradock's farm, the southerly end of this way being at or near the present loca-

tion of Cross street. It has been said that Charlestown laid out both Cross and Fulton streets, but, as will be hereinafter shown, the way laid out by that town was so many times changed that it is impossible to locate the first laying out. The River road was in use from the time of the first settlement of the town, running along the bank of the river — it was the only means of communication between Wilson's point, the several landing-places on the river, and the bridge and ford; and as has been previously said, that the part of River-side avenue from River street to Cross street not being built until the year 1746, the route from the easterly part of the town to the bridge and ford must have been over the River road, across to the Salem road near Gravelly bridge, and from thence to the bridge and ford. It is not at all probable that the present location of Cross street was in the line of travel. More than likely the cross road connected with the Salem road at a point nearer Gravelly bridge than does Cross street at the present day.

Whatever may have been the rights of Charlestown to a landing at "No Man's Friend," or to a road from thence to its woodlots, or from whence those rights may have been derived, it is certain that they were not so clearly defined as to put them beyond controversy. It is probable that Mr. Cradock's agent did not object when Charlestown first laid out or used these ways, but when the estate passed out of the hands of Mr. Cradock's heirs the new owners were disposed to question that town's rights, both to the landing and the ways. Charlestown records say that "the highway was turned that led up to the rocks in Charlestown woodlots, north of Mistick river and east of Gravelly creek, on request of Mr. Nathaniel Wade."

In Middlesex Deeds, Book 10, page 416, may be found an agreement entered into between Mr. Nathaniel Wade and the town of Charlestown about a landing-place or bank called "No Man's Friend." "It

was agreed that one-third of the bank next to Mistick bridge should be the sole property of the said Wade, and the remaining two-thirds, with a convenient highway thereto, should be held in common by the said Wade and the inhabitants of Charlestown; . . . and the said Wade further gives and grants unto the inhabitants of Charlestown one only highway from the said bank up to the rocks in Charlestown commons, the way to be maintained by the proprietors of the commons, and the town of Charlestown quitclaims to said Wade any claims it may have to the lower landing, called Hall's landing" (dated Sept. 2, 1695).

May 13, 1698. A committee was chosen by the town of Charlestown to agree with Mr. Nathaniel Wade for a highway from "No Man's Friend" bank to the woodlots. "It was agreed that the town of Charlestown should have a highway from said bank through said Wade's land unto the foot of the hill, that was formerly called Rock gate, two poles broad, and from thence two ways to the woodlots, one leading to Jacob Green senior's lot, the other leading to John Trumble's lot. Each way is also two poles broad as they are now laid out, being marked on the east side, and the said Wade shall have liberty to hang gates in any of said ways for the security of his pasture or pastures."

The Rock gate was located near the juncture of Fulton street and Love lane. This lane as originally laid out is still open as far as the Trumble lot.

In the year 1710 Mrs. Mercy Wade, widow of Nathaniel Wade, petitioned the town of Charlestown for a change in the highway from "No Man's Friend" landing to the woodlots. A committee appointed by the town to consider the matter, recommended "that the way be changed to meet the wishes of Mrs. Wade, as it is only in a little way that she desires the change."

In the year 1735 the location of the way from Salem street to the woodlots was definitely settled by its becoming a part of the highway from Stoneham to Medford.

There were several ancient ways east of the market-place (the Square) dating back to about the year 1700. One of these is now known as River street (Dead Man's alley). It was then called "The way to the wharfs." Another way is spoken of as leading from Salem street to the old burying-ground. This way is now contained within the present grounds, as they were not originally located upon Salem street, as at the present time.

Still another way commenced at the Market place, running easterly over what is now known as Riverside avenue; it extended but a short distance from the Market place and was called Distill House lane. On the corner of this way and Main street, fronting on the Market place, stood the "Royal Oak Tavern."

The Medford great brickyards were located north of Webster street, extending on both sides of Fulton street. It is probable that ways extended from Salem street to these yards. They were no doubt located where Ashland and Fountain streets now are.

The first landing-place and the way leading thereto, west of the bridge, are supposed to have been immediately adjoining the bridge and on land now partially occupied by the Carleton Building and partially by the street. It is within the memory of those now living that the buildings on that land were set back from the street some twelve or fifteen feet, so that teams could be driven down to the edge of the wharf. There are reasons for believing that a landing once existed there. Charlestown laid out one directly opposite, for the purpose of landing materials for the repairs of the southerly half of Mistick bridge, and it is fair to assume that the four towns which maintained the northerly half of said bridge also had a landing for similar purposes. The records of the County Court show that on March 8, 1736, a petition was presented to that Court as follows: "The inhabitants of the towns of Medford, Malden, Woburn, and Reading represent that they have for many years maintained and repaired the northerly half of Mistick

Bridge, so called, and have been at great charge and trouble in landing timber and materials used in repairing said bridge, by reason of some person improving part of the highway on the northwest side of the bridge, by laying timber, tar, &c.; and since that part of the way is not necessary for travellers, but improved by private persons for private uses, therefore pray that they may have liberty to use and improve such part of the highway on the north side of the bridge aforesaid, on each side of the way, as shall be convenient for landing timber and materials as aforesaid, so as not to obstruct persons travelling, &c."

The Court appointed a committee to consider the petition, and they reported "that the towns aforesaid have permission to lay timber and materials on the east side of the north end of the bridge so as not to prejudice the owners of the wharf adjoining, or any building that may be erected on said wharf. And it was so ordered by the Court."

It is probable that this way was not situated within the limits of the highway as it then existed, but that it was the property of one or more proprietors, who claimed and exercised the right to close it to the public. It is well known that the way spoken of on the south side of the river was without the limits of the highway and was owned by the town of Charlestown, and by that town sold in the year 1724.

The next westerly landing-place on the north side of the river was directly opposite the old High School House location on High street. This landing was the northerly end of the ford.

Following up the river, Rock-hill landing comes next in order, and the way leading to this landing from High street is called Hastings lane. Some years ago the town of Medford claimed rights in this way and landing, and suit was brought to test the ownership thereof. The case was decided in favor of the owner of the land through which the way passed, upon the general ground

that the public right, if it ever existed, had been lost by long-continued disuse.

When Thomas Brooks and Timothy Wheeler purchased of Mr. Collins their estate in Medford and Charlestown commons they also acquired a right in the landing at the "Rocks" next to John Mirrable's (Marble's) house. Does not this name suggest the source of the name of Marble brook? Marble must have been a tenant of Mr. Collins (possibly of Mr. Cradock also), and no doubt occupied the lands upon the borders of the brook.

There was a landing at Wilson's point (Wellington) on Three Mile brook (Malden river). There is also a landing spoken of in ancient deeds that cannot be accurately located. The indications are, however, that it was located somewhere between the Railroad and Boston-avenue bridges.

On the south or Charlestown side of the river and west of Main street was a large tract of land called the "Stinted Pastures" owned by the inhabitants of the town of Charlestown, and divided into ranges about eighty rods in width, and between these ranges were laid out ways or rangeways, as they were called, two rods in width and extending from the river, southerly, to the Menotomy road. A description of these rangeways, taken from Charlestown records, and being part of the report of a committee submitted to that Town, is as follows: "Then we measured three rangeways in the upper part of Charlestown, between Menotomy road and Medford river.

"First Rangeway. — We began on Menotomy road near Twopenny brook or Walnut tree hill, and measured the first rangeway northerly, 90 and ¾ rods, shut up and improved by Mr. Russell; then still northerly 24 rods, shut up and improved one-half by Mr. Russell and one-half by Mr. Fosdick; then running still northerly five rods, shut up wholly by Mr. Fosdick and improved by him; then we measured still northerly this

being Medford bounds, 85 rods, shut up and improved by Nathan Tufts; then still northerly 169 rods, shut up and improved by Brigadier Royall, which brings us to the way which passes by our Fish place on Medford River."

This way is closed at the present day. When Lieutenant-Governor Usher owned the Royall farm a complaint was made to the selectmen of Charlestown that he had stopped up a rangeway running through his farm, and he was ordered to open the same forthwith. There is no evidence that this order was complied with.

"Second Rangeway. — Then we began at Mr. James Tufts', near Medford River, and measured southerly 120 rods, shut up and improved by James Tufts, which brings us into Charlestown; still southerly we measured 142 rods, which brings us to Menotomy road, shut up and improved by Mr. Russell."

This way has since been laid out as a county road, and is known as Curtis street in Somerville and Winthrop street in Medford. Mr. James Tufts' house stood on what is now the corner of South and Curtis streets, and was removed by Mr. Paul Curtis to a location at the easterly corner of Summer street and Maple avenue. It was taken down a few years ago.

"Third Rangeway. — Then we began on Menotomy road, and measured the third Rangeway northerly, partly open, and then still northerly, shut up 20 rods, partly by Dickson, partly by Smith, this being Medford bounds, then proceeded still northerly to Medford river to a Rock, which measured 160 rods, shut up and improved by the Rev. Mr. Smith."

This way has since been opened as a public way, except that portion between West street and the river, and is known as North street in both Medford and Somerville.

The rock above mentioned must have been the southerly point of Rock hill, on the opposite side of the river.

The Rev. Mr. Smith's house stood on land at the corner of North and Auburn streets.

The Charlestown records also give a description of two landing-places, on the south side of the river, owned by that town.

"There is a piece of land, about one-half an acre belonging to the town for a landing or fishing place on Medford River, which is bounded as follows, viz.: on land formerly of Mr. Jonathan Tufts, now Brigadier Royall's, measuring from the road at the east end, back to the river, northerly 8 rods: from said east end along the road to a stake, measuring 24 rods westerly; and from said stake northerly to the river is two rods, all straight lines."

The location of this piece of land is west of and adjoining the estate of Mr. Chandler on South street, and it was the southerly end of the ford.

"There is a watering place belonging to the town lying on Medford river, bounded as follows: bounded on each side by the land of Mr. William Smith; southwesterly 29½ rods; northeasterly 28½ rods; southeasterly on the Rangeway leading to the river two rods, the breadth at the bottom next to the river, northerly 13½ rods, which lies a little to the west of Smiths house."

The watering-place above described is the gravel beach, to the east of and adjoining the Lowell Railroad location.

There was a beach at the end of the second rangeway, sometimes called the Middle rangeway, and it was known as the Middle landing. The city of Medford claims the ownership to this, as it also does to the landing at the end of the first rangeway.

There was a way leading west from the third rangeway, near where Waterworks or Capen street is now located. Also one leading from Harvard street along the southwest bounds of Governor Winthrop's farm.

The town of Charlestown laid out a way on the south side of the river, west of and adjoining Mistick bridge, for the purpose of landing materials for the repair of the

southerly half of the bridge. A portion of this way was in existence as late as the year 1879. It was entirely obliterated by the building of the stone bridge, which is twelve feet wider than the old drawbridge.

An old way, called Brickyard lane, extended from South street, southerly, to the brickyards. A portion of this way can still be seen to the south of Summer street. It is sometimes called Oak street. The brickyards were situated between Summer and George streets, on both sides of Brickyard lane.

South street was early known as the Fordway, or the Way to the ford. In later days it was called Fish House lane, taking its name from the fish-house that stood on the north side of the lane, near to the fishing-place. It was laid out two rods wide from Main street to the ford or landing-place. This lane was afterwards extended as far west as the third rangeway.

Union street (now Swan street), or that part of it leading east from Main street, was laid out about the year 1720. It was laid out two rods wide, and was called the "Way to the wharfs."

Another way, one rod in width, was laid out about the same time. It is the way now leading from Main street to Mr. Bean's coal yard.

A part of Broadway was once situated within the limits of Medford.

That portion of Main street between South street and the Square was not in use until after the building of the bridge.

In March, 1695, the Hon. John Usher and Mr. David Jeffreys motioned the County Court to alter and remove the highway through their farms, late the farm of Governor Winthrop, and the Court appointed a committee to consider the same.

The following is the motion: "Sheweth that having searched the records of said County, as to the Highway laid out through said farms, we can find upon record, only one way laid out, which way is through sorrelly

plain to Cambridge, and for some time a way having been made use of, leading to Charlestown which way not appointed by any Court as can be found on record.

"And the said way may be turned and altered for conveniency of, and less charge to the town of Charlestown, and less prejudicial to the proprietors of said farms. . . . . ."

The committee report that "having heard the Hon. John Usher and Mr. David Jeffreys concerning the changing of the way, which now is, and has been made use of by the Country, this many years, unto a way which they proposed to be laid out over Sorrelly plain to Winters Brook, which way we judge considerable further, and the way much worse, both for teams and travellers.

"The Hon. John Usher having shown us a way between two Bridges, near his Spring: which runs southwest and into Menotomy road that leads to Charlestown, and that also is in use and further than the old road is, as it was formerly used" — The committee's report ends rather abruptly, no recommendation being attached to it.

The course of the road was not changed; the evident design of the petitioners was to have that part of Main street running over Winter hill abandoned, and a new way laid out, across the plain, coming out upon the Menotomy road, at or near where the railroad bridge at North Somerville now stands, that being the point where Winters brook crosses the Menotomy road. The two bridges referred to were over Winters and Twopenny brooks, and the Sorrelly plain was situated between Main street and Broadway on the north and south, and between the two brooks on the east and west.

The Sugar Loaf road (leading from Woburn street across Winthrop street, east of Sugar Loaf hill, into the woodlands) Ramshead and Brooks lanes were laid out as ways to the woodlots and pastures in the north part of the town. The irregular course of Brooks lane at its southerly end, with its sharply defined angles, as

shown on the map, suggests that at some former time its location had been changed.

Powder House road was the way to the Powder House, which now stands on land of Dr. Green, on the easterly side of Highland avenue.

The easterly branch of Ramshead lane is supposed to have been the way leading to the old mill, and the settlement in its vicinity, that was situated on Marble brook about a mile from High street.

NOTE. — The map published in connection with the foregoing paper is offered for the purpose of enabling our readers to locate the points of interest named therein. It contains marks and legends that have no connection with the subject under consideration. It was necessary to publish it as a whole, or to compel the making of a new and partial copy. To the student of Medford history it will prove to be, without doubt, of much interest, notwithstanding its incomplete condition. It will be an object lesson to the Medford Historical Society of what might be accomplished by a more experienced map-maker than myself.

J. H. H.

BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES FROM EARLY RECORDS.

Births in the Year 1718

Susanna Daughter of John and Abigail Richardson born May y^e^ 2^d^ 1718

Ruth daughter of John and Elizebeth Albery born May the 4^th^ 1718

Hannah Daughter of Joseph and Hannah Sargeant born June 28^th^ 1718

Lydia Daughter of William and Lydia Manser born July 29 1718

Mary the Daughter of John and Sarah Greatton born September the ninth 1718

Samuel Son of Joseph and Mary Ballard born December the 27 1718

Sarah Daughter of Joseph and Sarah Tompson born December 21 1718

Susanna Daughter of John and Susanna Giles born January 26^th^ $171\frac{8}{9}$

John Son of John and Mercy Bradshaw born February the 13^th^ $171\frac{8}{9}$

Elizebeth Daughter of Benj^n^ & Sarah Peirce born February y^e^ 21^st^. $171\frac{8}{9}$

Thomas Son of William and Abigail Patten born February 20^th^ $171\frac{8}{9}$

Martha Daughter of John & Mary Whitmore Born ffebrewer^y^ y^e^ 23–$171\frac{8}{9}$

Ruben Neagro: Son of m^r^ Jon^a^ Tuftes Servant Kuffe and Pheliaf Servnt to y^e^ Revrn^d^. m^r^ porter. Waſ Born february 27—— 1718

1718 Deaths

Stephen Willis died March 15^th^. 1718.
Deborah Willis died July 15^th^ 1718.
Leiu^t^ Stephen Willis died July 29 1718.
Mary Tufts the Wife of Tho^s^ Tufts Esq^r^ died Sep^br^ y^e^ 3. 1718
Sarah Ward Widow. Died November y^e^ 18 1718
Betts Attwood Son of Oliver and Anna Attwood died Nov^r^ y^e^ 28^th^ 1718
Bartholomew Semer Died January 20 $171\frac{8}{9}$
Gershom Son of Jonath^n^ & Lydia Hall died Decem^r^ 9, 1718
Mary Willis Daughter of John & Mary Willis died Feb 2^d^ 1718

Mariages

John Bradshaw and Mercy Tufts were married March y^e^ 14 1718 By y^e^ Rev^d^ m^r^ Porter —
John Giles and Susanna Hall were married March y^e^ 27 1718 By y^e^ Rev^d^ mr Porter
were married
Peter Wait of Medford and Abigail Peirce of Woborn ∧ May 22 1718 By y^e^ Rev^d^ m^r^ Porter.
Ebenezer Hills and Margarett Hayes were maried July 29 1718. By Thomas Tufts Esqr
Ebenezer Burgiſs and Mary Fowle both of Cambridge were married Oct^r^ y^e^ 22^d^ 1718 By Thomas Tufts Esqr —
Joseph Frost and Rebecca Frost both of Bilreca were married Dec^r^. 8 1718 By Thomas Tufts Esqr
Joseph Blogget and Elizebeth Sawyer both of Woborn were married Dec^r^ 16 1718 By Tho^s^ Tufts Esqr
Joseph Thompſon and Sarah Bradshaw were married Decemb^r^ 30 1718. By Tho^s^ Tufts Esqr

a

Births De∧ths & Mariages 1719

M^r^ Nathaniel Peirce Died Aprill y^e^ 4^th^ 1719
Willis Son of Percival Hall & Jane his Wife Borne March y^e^ 7^th^ $171\frac{8}{9}$
Samuel Son of Joseph and Mary Ballerd Died Aprill the 6^th^ 1719
Sam^ll^ Cuttler & Hannah Green Both of Malding wear maried by M^r^: Tho^s^ Tuffts Eſq^r^ May y^e^:
Dani^ll^ Hutson of Bridgwater & Mary Peirce of Obron Wear maried may y^e^ 19 1719 by M^r^ Tho^s^ Tuffts Eſq^r^
Isaac Hill of Woodstock & Sarah Wright of Obron wear married may y^e^. 20^th^ 1719 By M^r^ Tho^s^ Tuffts Eſq^r^

Sam[ll] Page of Corrolina & Susanah Lawrance of Charlstown wear married may y[e] 20[th] 1719 By M[r] Tho[s] Tuffts Efq[r]

Sam[ll] Hafting of wattertown and Bethia Halloway of Malding were maried may y[e] 27 1719 By M[r] Tho[s] Tuffts Efq[r]

Mary Daughter of Stephen and Elizebeth Hall Born Aprill y[e] 17: 1719

Elizebeth Daughter of Ichabod Peirce and Sarah his Wife Born Aprill y[e] 30[th] 1719

Nathaniel Son of Nathaniel Peirce Deceased. and Ledia his Wife Born June y[e] 29:=1719

Joseph Converce and Isabell Forbufh both of Obron were maried July 14 1719 by M[r] Th[o]. Tuffts Esq[r]

John Perrey & Deborah Willson both of Cambridge maried Octob[r]. 28 1719 M[r] Tho[s] Tuffts Efq[r]

Katharine Daught[r]. To Tho[s] Tuffts Efq[r]. & Emme his Wife Borne Novem[r] 4[th] 1719

Sarah Daughter of Aaron Blanchard and Sarah his Wife Dyed Novemb[r] y[e] 16: 1719.

Sarah Daughter of Aaron Blanchard & Sarah his Wife Born Decemb[r] 14: 1719

John Son of Sam[ll] & Elizebeth Polley Born Augoft y[e]. 6[th] 1719

Jonathan Son of Jon[a] Thomson & Abigail his Wife Born Apr[ll] 10[th] 1720

Nath[ll]. Wade Son of M[r] Samuel Wade & M[rs] Ledia his wife Born [Apri[ll]]* Febrewary 20[th] 1719/20

Peter Son of Peter Wait & Abigal his Wife Born Aprill 21 1720

Joanna Porter Daught[r]. of y[e] Rever[nd] M[r]. Aaron Porter & M[rs] Susanah his Wife Born March 21[st] 1719

Jon[a] Polley & Ledia Nutting w[r]. Maried by y[e] Rever[nd] M[r] Aaron Porter Feb[r] 25/1719[20]

John Hall & Elizebeth Walker Maried by y[e] Rever[nd] M[r] Aaron Porter Apr[ll] 27/1720

Jane Porter Daught[r]. of y[e] Rever[nd] M[r]. Aaron Porter M[rs]. Susanah his Wife Born November 9[th]/1720

M[r]. Thomas Oaks and Abigall Brooks maried by y[e] Rever[nd]: M[r]: Aaron Porter Oct[r]: 27/1720

Ruth Daughter of Richard & Elizebeth Wait was Born Decem[r]: 1: 1720

John Hall Dyed Novem[r] 14[th] 1720

John Son of John & Elizbeth Hall Born Nov[r]: 24[th] 1720

Ledia Daughter of Jonathan Polley and Ledia his Wife Born Decemb[r]. 12 1720

Ruth Daughter of Thomas Hall and Abigall his Wife Born Augoft y[e] 30 1719

Ledia Daughter of Ebenez[r]. Nutting & Ledia his Wife Born Nov[r]. 5[th] 1692

Births

Jonathan Son of Ebenez^{r}: Nutting & Ledia his Wife Born Jan^{u}: 31: 1694/5

Sarah Daught^{r}: of Ebenez^{r}: Nutting & Ledia his Wife Born 11th of Augoft 1698

Ebenez^{r}: Son of Ebenez^{r}: Nutting and Ledia his Wife Born Augoft 9th 1700

James Son of Ebenez^{r}: Nutting and Ledia his Wife Born Janua^{r}: 31–1703/4

Samu^{ll}. y^{e} tufts Son of Thomas: Tuft & Emme his Wife was Born December: 31–1720

William Hall Son of Thomas Hall and abigal his wife was Born June y^{e}. 11–1721

John Ricardſon Son of John Ricardſon & abigal his wife was born May y^{e}. 29–1721

Joſiah Waters ſon of Joſiah Waters and Mary his wife was Born July y^{e}. 26 — 1721

Samuell ſon of Joſeph and Mary Ballerd born [Dyed]* July y^{e} 6: — 1721

Stephen Son of Stephen Hall and Ellefebath his wife Born auguſt y^{e} 10 — 1721 —

Marcy Bradſhow Daugh^{tr} of John Bradſhow and marcy his wife Born December 27 — 1721 —

Abigal Daughter Thomas Oaks and abigal his wife Born September y^{e}. 2–1721 —

Hanah Daughter William Hodmon and martha his wife Born november y^{e}.–19th 1721 —

Suſanah Daughter of Samull Polly & Eleſebath his wife Born

Deaths

Eleſebath Wade Daugter of Eleſebath Thomas widow Dyed auguſt 1721

Ellefebath gardner Daugter of Thomas gardner Decd and mary his wife Dyed August y^{e} 13th: — 1721 —

Samull Son of Joſeph and Mary Ballard Dyed August y^{e}. 10 —— 1721

Capt Peter tufts Died September y^{e}. 19th 1721

Peter Wait Dyed December y^{e} Eight — 1721

Moſes tufts Son of peter tufts & Deaberah his his wife Dyed May y^{e}. 8th. — 1721

Janury y^{e}. 15 1721 Samull porter Son of y^{e} Revrnd M^{r}. Aron porter and Suſanah his wife was Born

Janu^{ry} y^{e} 24 1721 y^{e}. Reverend M^{r}. Aron porter Dyed

Janury 13th. 1721 Ecobod peirc Dyed of y^{e} Small pox

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* Cancelled.

Janry y^e^ 16^th^ 1721 Jonathan peirc Son of Ecobode peirc and Sary his wife Dyed of y^e^ Small pox

Janry y^e^ 21 — 1721 Elesebath peirc Daughter of y^e^ S^d^ Ecobode & Sary peirc Dyed of Small pox

[Auguſt y^e^]* Sary Hall Daugter of Stephen Hall and Eleſebath his wife Dyed

Sufanna Allbree Daugter of John Allbree and Eleſebath his Wife Dyed March y^e^. 14^th^ 1725

Benjamin Peirce Son of Benj^a^ : Peirce and Sary his Wife Dyed May ye 31–1725

Nathan Bradſhaw Son of John & Marcy Bradſhaw Dyed Janury y^e^ 8^th^ 1724

Mariges

Samuell Williams of Charlstown and Sufanah of Malden maryed by Tho^s^. Tufts Esq^r^. Dec^mb^r 19^th^ 1719

Joſhuay Wheat & Eleſebath Edey both of Watertown wer maried febry : 5th 1719 by Tho^s^. Tufts Esqr

Joſhuay Nickols and Ruth grean both of Malden Maried Aprill 12 —1720— by Thom^s^ Tufts Esq^r^

Thomas Ingerſol of springfeild & Ruth Child of Watertown Maried May : 17–1720 by Tho^s^. Tufts Esqr

Jonathan Barrett and Mehittbll lynde both of Malden Maried July 19—1720 by Thom^s^. Tufts Esqr.

John King and Rac^h^all Barron both of Watetown wer Married ſeptem^br^. y^e^. 28—1720— by Thom^s^. tufts Esq

Jack negro & peg maried october 4^th^. 1720

William osborn and Sarah perry both of Cambridge wer maryed octobr ye 7^th^. — 1720 by thom^s^. tufts Esq^r^

Samuell Evens and hanah franklins both of Malden Married Decembr. 2 — 1720 — by Thom^s^. Tufts Esqr

Obadiah Jenkins and mary Grover both of Malden wer maryed Janry 5^th^. — 1720/1 by thoms tufts Esqr

Ebeneſer Desper and Sary Right both of Malden wer Marryd Decmbr 24 — 1720 — By thom^s^. Tufts Esqr

John Sargant of Charlstown and Sary Dextor of Malden Were maryed May y^e^. 25 — 1721 — By Thomas tufts Esq^r^.

Jacob Gaskin of Boſtown and Hanah Clark of Concord were maryed Maryed June y^e^ 27 — 1721

Jabez H. Wait and Judith Hill both of malden Maryed Janry y^e^ 4^th^ 1722 By Thom^s^. Tufts Esq^r^.

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* Cancelled.

THE EVOLUTION OF THE MEDFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY.

By Mary E. Sargent.

Read before the Medford Historical Society, Jan. 16, 1899.

IN the matter of libraries, as with individuals, we take a pardonable pride in tracing their origin to as remote an ancestry as possible. Obeying the Scriptural injunction, "Honor thy father and thy mother; that thy days may be long upon the land," as individuals we may aspire to a right to belong to the *Sons* or *Daughters* of the Revolution, the Colonial Dames, or, better still, to be a "Mayflower" descendant; but in the case of libraries we are quite content with a very small and humble beginning.

In many towns the public library was an outgrowth of the district-school library, which by an act of the Legislature of 1837 the school districts were authorized to establish for the use of common schools, provided a certain amount of money should be raised by the town.

In looking through the Town Records I find, Nov. 14, 1842, that it was voted to appropriate the sum of $45 in aid of public-school libraries. In referring to the school records of that period, however, though the school committee took action with regard to the matter, the scheme was abandoned.

The public library, "free to all," is peculiar to modern civilization, and the circulating library, from which books may be taken for home use, is of comparatively recent date. The idea that books, to be of real benefit, should be put into the hands of people for use outside of the library was first put into practical execution by Benjamin Franklin, who, in 1731, established at Philadelphia the first effective circulating library, now called the "Old Philadelphia Library." This was what is known as a "Society Library," supported by subscription, and was the forerunner of the nearly one thousand "Social Libraries" which sprang up so rapidly through-

out the United States. Franklin, in his autobiography, speaking of the benefits derived from them, says: "They have improved the general conversation of the Americans; have made the common tradesmen and farmers as intelligent as most gentlemen in other countries; and, perhaps, have contributed in some degree to the stand so generally made throughout the colonies in defence of their privileges." In Brooks' "History of Medford" it is stated that our own library had its origin in the Medford Social Library, which was founded in 1825 by a society whose design, as set forth in their constitution, was to collect books "promotive of piety and good morals," and to aid in the "diffusion of valuable information." We find that the first thought of the library for the people here arose in the mind of the pastor of the "First Congregational Church" in Medford in 1825, the Rev. Andrew Bigelow. In the records of that church is to be found the following account. Mr. Bigelow's letter to the church is as follows:

"AUGUST 7, 1825.

"Believing that a Library composed of serious books established in a Christian society, and conducted on proper principles is of great utility, and that such an Institution is needed by ourselves especially for the benefit of the poorer members of the Flock, I respectfully propose the formation of a religious Library as a subject for your serious consideration; — and to aid the accomplishment of the object, I further offer for your acceptance the sum of thirty dollars to be applied to the first purchase of books. It is suggested that the Library, if formed, should only comprise books of strictly Christian and practical; — not of a sectarian and controversial nature; and that there would be a propriety in its being open under due regulation to the use of the members of the congregation generally. Leaving it to your wisdom to determine on the proposed subject, and also on the disposal of the small sum herewith offered;

— to decide moreover, (in the event of the foregoing proposition meeting with your approval) on the measures proper to be devised for the gradual increase of the Library and for the management of its concerns."

"Your affte. & obliged pastor

"ANDREW BIGELOW."

"AUGUST 28, 1825.

"The committee to whom was referred the subject of a Social Library have met and had the subject under their consideration, and they now report: —

"That they think such a Library under proper regulations will be very beneficial to all classes of society. They find on enquiry that few towns in our vicinity are without one; that they are highly approved of wherever established, and that they have been found to be particularly serviceable to the poor, who would not otherwise have the means of general intelligence within their reach.

"Your committee therefore beg leave to recommend that a subscription paper be set on foot as soon as possible for the purpose of getting the means necessary for collecting such a Library. That all the inhabitants of the town able to subscribe be called upon, that subscriptions in money or in books, or in loans of books, if there are any so valuable that their owners may be unwilling to give them, and that a committee be now nominated generally, to carry these several objects into effect.

"Your committee take the liberty respectfully to suggest that in their opinion the library ought not to be confined entirely to Theological works, nor of a strictly religious character. Books of general intelligence, History, Discussions in morals, even Philosophical treatises, in short, any book that is calculated to give instruction without exciting a spirit of controversy, or bad feelings, would in their opinion be a valuable acquisition and should be admitted. They think how-

ever, that a Committee should now be chosen to decide on the admissibility of such books as may be offered, and that, that Committee shall have the power to receive or reject them as they shall think proper. All the subscribers to the Library ought, in the opinion of your Committee, to have a voice in the disposal and management of it.

"They therefore say nothing at present of rules and regulations for its government. This can be done much more properly and with equal convenience when a competent number of subscribers shall be obtained for the purpose. August 20, 1825.

"For the Committee,
"J. PORTER, Chrm."

Some amiable discussion took place among the brethren after the reading of this report. It was thought by some that the committee had construed too liberally their powers, the plan of a religious library having been submitted by their pastor and already approved by a unanimous vote of the church, and that the committee had proposed a material enlargement of that design, and that their propositions required consideration.

Some were for adhering to the original scheme, and apprehended that on the plan newly proposed too wide a door would be opened for the admission of books to the library, and that a taste for speculative, perhaps unprofitable and polemic reading would be encouraged. The pastor, however, expressed himself satisfied with the alteration, or more properly the enlargement, of the plan of the library; and left it optional with the brethren whether to confine his donation to the founding a religious library, as first contemplated, or to apply it for the purpose of setting on foot one of a more general character. The discussion resulted in the postponement of a further consideration of the report until the next Friday (September 2) after the lecture.

Sept. 2, 1825. The brethren met by adjournment, when the committee who reported on the 28th ult.

offered the following supplement to their paper as then read:

"The Committee hope it will be distinctly understood, that they did not intend to interfere with the letter which the Church received from their beloved Pastor.

"They consider that Letter indeed as the basis of their report. They only wished to enlarge and to make the plan of the Library a little more general than it was at first contemplated. The words of that Letter are: 'That the Library should only comprise books of a strictly Christian and practical, — not of a sectarian and controversial nature.' Your Committee humbly conceive that the books they have recommended will not be inconsistent with this character. If they are unchristian or impractical, if they are sectarian or carry with them the spirit of controversy, — they ought to be excluded, and it is to be hoped that we shall have no subscriber who will wish to see them introduced.

"For the Committee,

"J. PORTER."

After the reading of the above, two or three of the brethren expressed their minds, and a seeming readiness prevailed to accept the report; but it was concluded to defer a final decision thereon to the next Sabbath, after the second public service, when a fuller meeting of the brethren was expected.

Sept. 4, 1825. "In Church meeting, the Report of the Committee to whom had been referred the proposed subject of a Library was again read, along with the supplement thereto; — and the Brethren unanimously voted to approve and accept the same. A preamble that had been prepared for a subscription paper was also read and approved of.

"It was voted that a Committee of five Brethren of the Church and six members of the congregation be chosen to raise subscriptions of money and collections of books,

and that said committee should possess discretionary power (subject to the fundamental principle of the Library) to accept or reject such books as should be offered for gift or deposit, and to act until in a meeting of the subscribers, a set of rules be formed and the proper officers be chosen by them for managing the concerns of the Institution. — The committee chosen were (from the Church) Brothers Jonathan Porter, Nathaniel Hall, Jonathan Brooks, Nathan Adams, John Symmes, jr., and (from the Cong.) Messrs. Dudley Hall, Turrell Tufts, Abner Bartlett, Joseph Swan, Ebenezer Hall, jr., and Isaac Sprague.

"The meeting was then dissolved."

This last date, as you see, was September, 1825. I have been unable, as yet, to find any report of that committee as to the success of their mission; but there is in the possession of the Public Library the financial record of the Medford Social Library, from April, 1826, to January, 1856, at which latter date it became the property of the town and was made public. The presumptive evidence is that these records show the perfecting of the scheme for a Social Library above alluded to, as the names of the committee chosen by the church to perfect the undertaking are the same as those which first appear in the financial record. From these records it would seem that the library, during the first years of its existence, had its home in a room in some house, the occupant of the house acting, perhaps, as librarian; for I find as one of the first items (1826-1837), cash paid Mrs. Hepzibah Hall five dollars per year for rent of room. The first name which appears as librarian is that of Ebenezer Hall, 1827. A catalogue must have been published very soon, for in 1827 is to be found the following entry: "Paid Bowles Dearborn for catalogues, nine dollars." A copy of this catalogue I have been unable to find, but from Mrs. Susan M. Fitch we have received a copy of one containing the constitution,

bearing no date of imprint, however, but presumably printed in 1837, as at that time a new constitution was framed, when the shares were made one dollar, and Article 3 of this constitution reads as follows: "The price of a share shall be one dollar, each share shall be subject to an annual tax of fifty cents, commencing at the annual meeting, January, 1838." Their privileges, in one respect, were at that time the same as in the Public Library of to-day, as in Article 4 we find: "Each proprietor may take out two volumes at a time, for each share he may hold, for fourteen days, and if they have been in the library over a year, thirty days." From Article 8, after a long list of duties belonging to the librarian, this astonishing rule appears: "And if there are any books lost, injured, or defaced, of which the Librarian can give no satisfactory account, he shall himself be answerable for them and bound to make them good." With such a rule it is not astonishing that librarians were loth to have the books long out of their sight. In the early days of this Social Library the duties of a librarian must have been purely a labor of love, as not until 1837, when the library consisted of six hundred and ninety-five books, is there any record of remuneration for services. The salary, from 1837 to 1856, was twenty-five dollars per year. Luther Angier was librarian from 1837–41, S. S. Green from 1841–42, O. Blake from 1842–43, J. J. B. Randall, 1844–46. From 1846–48 Mary B. Barker received, for use of room and as librarian, thirty dollars per year, which would indicate a most remarkable fact that at that time a woman's services were valued the same as a man's. From 1848–56 S. B. Perry acted as treasurer and librarian.

Jan. 1, 1843, was the first receipt from the Turrell Tufts' donation. In 1851 the amount paid for moving the library was fifty cents. Besides the amounts received from shares, which were at one time five dollars, changed in 1837 to one dollar, money may have been sometimes raised by means of entertainments or lectures,

as several times in the town reports there are to be found that certain sums were paid by the Social Library for use of the Town House. These meetings may have been, however, simply social gatherings. At a town meeting, March 12, 1855, it was voted that a committee of three be chosen to confer with the trustees of the Social Library to consider the subject of establishing a town library according to an act of Legislature passed in the year 1851, and to report to the adjourned meeting in April. Messrs. William Haskings, Judah Loring, and Charles Cummings were chosen said committee. The conference resulted in the gift to the town of the books and property of the Social Library. The first Library Committee under the new conditions, Peter C. Hall, Alvah N. Cotton, Charles Cummings, obtained a room in the second story of the railway station, and the Public Library was opened for the delivery of books, under the name of Medford Tufts Library, July 26, 1856; and to give an idea of the progress of the library from that time it seems fitting to quote from some of the reports of the Library Committees. In looking through these reports it has been interesting to note what a high standard the trustees (sanctioned by the town) have always had in the selection of books. It is also interesting to see how history repeats itself, for some of the conditions and problems of those early days of the library are still to be found now. From the first report, in 1857, I quote as follows: "The number of volumes received (from the Social Library) was 1,125. To these 8 have been added by donation, and 203 by purchase; so that if none have been lost, the present number is 1,336. Accounts with more than 300 families have been opened, and the number is constantly increasing.

"Readers multiply faster than the books, each addition of the latter bringing more of the former than can be supplied. All classes have been benefited, but we have been especially gratified to witness the eagerness with

which the numerous young men, who otherwise would have no profitable employment for many of their evening hours, have taken out and read the books. By law, the town can annually appropriate for the support of the library but twenty-five cents for each ratable poll, and it would require several years for the library, with such aid only, to attain a size adequate to the demand for books. We venture the hope that some philanthropic citizens will covet the blessing promised the liberal soul, so far as to make donations in books or money to supply a want which the town in its corporate capacity cannot legally meet." The town in 1855 appropriated $150; in 1856, $200. The salary of the librarian, $50. The library was opened every Saturday from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 P.M. Now, though not limited by law as to the amount to be raised for the use of the library, there seems to be the same need of appeal to the generosity of the citizens.

It would be wise for Massachusetts to look well to her honors, as the West, recognizing the value of the library as an educational factor in the community, far out-distances us in liberality. A small bookcase and eight volumes of the American Encyclopædia represented the beginning of the Kansas City Public Library in 1874; to-day it has a building which cost over $200,000, with 25,000 volumes. It was stated by a Western librarian, recently, that there was something radically wrong if the appropriation for the library did not equal in amount at least one-third of that appropriated for the schools. With much less than such a sum at the disposal of the trustees, to-day, very much more could be done to adequately supply the ever-increasing needs of a progressive people.

In 1858 the Library Committee "would assure the taxpayers that the town makes no investment that yields a surer, larger, or more enduring profit, than the appropriation yearly paid to the public library." In that year the Everett Grammar School devoted to the use of the

library the proceeds of their exhibition, $27.20, — a good example for the friends of the library now. In 1861, the room in the railway station becoming too small, one much more ample and convenient was secured upon the second floor of the Medford Exchange. From the report of that date: "It is very desirable that ladies should, if possible, make all their exchanges of books in the afternoon, as the crowd sometimes present in the evening is too great to make the room a convenient or a proper place for them. The number of volumes taken from the library each year is supposed to be about 10,000."

"In obedience to the instructions of the town, most of the works purchased the past year have been standard, and we think that reference to the new catalogue will satisfy the impartial that the several departments are now very appropriately balanced." This time $3.35 was paid for moving the library. In 1869 the library was moved to the Town House and a reading-room was opened daily, Sundays excepted, from 3 to 5 and 7 to 9 P.M., the library being opened only on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons, and Saturday evenings. In 1871 it was opened every evening except Sunday and Wednesday, and also on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons. By act of the Legislature the dog tax was devoted to the use of the library. In 1872 the charging system of the Boston Public Library was substituted for the ledger system, which had up to this time been used. In 1875 was the generous donation by Mr. Thacher Magoun of the present home of the library.

In 1886 about $20 was received as income of the fund left to the library by Miss Lucy Osgood. In 1897 the library received a gift of $500 under the will of Mrs. Adeline A. Munroe, formerly with her husband, the late Mr. Charles Munroe, a resident of this city. This was given at the request of her husband, in consideration of the pleasure derived from the library by him.

In 1876 a branch delivery was established at West Medford, 1886 at Glenwood, 1890 at Wellington.

The first law passed in Massachusetts, in 1851, authorizing any town to establish and maintain a free public library, was due to the action of one of the smaller towns in the State. In 1847 President Wayland of Brown University offered to give $500 to the town of Wayland for a library, provided the town would contribute an equal amount. This the citizens in town meeting assembled pledged themselves to do. But the question came up as to whether the citizens in their municipal capacity had a right to do this or to compel the taxpayers to devote their money to the buying of books and the support of a town library. It was finally decided that it should be optional with the individual citizens to pay the required tax, and with this understanding the library was opened to the public in August, 1850.

In 1851 the Rev. John B. Wight, Wayland's Representative in the Legislature, introduced a bill authorizing any town to establish and maintain for its citizens a public library. This bill became a law in May, 1851. This law, which was restrictive as to the amount of money the town might raise for the support of its public library, was followed by similar ones of a more liberal tendency, until in 1866 a law was passed removing the restrictions as to money and permitting the towns to appropriate what they saw fit for the support of their libraries. Thenceforward the laws passed tended to foster and protect the public library by imposing fines for those persons who wilfully defaced or destroyed the books or other property of libraries; and one very important law was enacted, and is still in force, of which very few people probably are aware, or the librarian would not so often be obliged to act the part of police-officer and prohibit the use of the library to certain disturbers of the peace. This law reads: "Whoever wilfully disturbs persons assembled in a public library, or reading-room connected therewith, by making a noise, or in

any other manner, during the time in which such library or reading-room is open to the public, shall be punished by imprisonment in the jail not exceeding thirty days, or by a fine not exceeding $50." In the majority of instances, of course, this lawlessness arises from an overflow of animal spirits, and not from a wilful desire to disturb others, a few moments of personal enjoyment being of more importance in their minds than the discomfort of many others. A wholesome restraint is considered an act of oppression. A few lessons in altruism would not be amiss. There should be one room, at least, which studious people can have free from unnecessary interruptions.

It is interesting to note that the modern library movement began in 1876, the centennial year of our existence as a nation, a fitting time for the inauguration of a new era in the educational history of our country. In September of that year a comparatively small number of prominent librarians met in the old city of Philadelphia to discuss library methods, and as a result of their deliberations was formed the American Library Association, whose avowed purpose is "the promoting the library interests of the country, and of increasing reciprocity of intelligence and good-will among librarians and all interested in library economy and bibliographical studies." It adopted the "Library Journal," the first number of which had already appeared, as its official organ, and a perusal of its pages will bear testimony to the work it has sought to accomplish.

It is worthy of note that the new association, like all other educational associations, has never for a moment proposed to itself as an object the obtaining of higher salaries for its members, or the passage of any ten or eight hour law, but has devoted itself to finding out how it could best benefit the public, by enlarging their privileges, by securing the best trained assistants, and by coöperation with the public schools. For the school and the library, according to our modern ideas, are but

parts of one educational system and should always work in harmony together toward the one end, the elevation of the people. Among the good works accomplished through the influence of the A.L.A. may be mentioned the establishment of schools for the training of librarians; the adoption of good systems of classification of books; the advocacy of the admission of the public to the shelves; the formation of State library clubs, holding meetings more frequently, to supplement the work of the larger association and to keep up the interest in whatever concerns the advance of the library movement. Without doubt the A.L.A., through its individual members, has had some indirect influence on library legislation.

"All things must be judged by results, and the only test of success is usefulness." It has been said: "Agassiz always insisted that something resembling miracles might be wrought in reforming the people by informing them." It is customary to measure the importance of a library by the amount of its circulation, as if the more books a man reads the wiser he necessarily becomes. But quality, not quantity of reading is what makes the good citizen, and here it is impossible to tabulate statistics, so dear to the average mind.

The Right Hon. John Morley, at the dedication of a public library in Scotland, says:

"Show me a man or woman whose reading has made him or her tolerant, patient, candid, a truth-seeker and a truth-lover, then I will show you a well-read man. I have always thought that an admirable definition of the purposes of libraries and of books by an admirable man of letters years ago, when he said their object was to bring more sunshine into the lives of our fellow-countrymen, more good-will, more good-humor, and more of the habit of being pleased with one another. I will make a little addition to that; namely, *the purpose is to bring sunshine into our hearts and to drive moonshine out of our heads.*"

The smallness of Medford's appropriation prevents its library from doing as much good as it otherwise could. It has for some time sent carefully selected collections of books each month to the public schools, with very gratifying results as shown in the better class of books called for by the children when they come to the library. But it is to be regretted that for lack of funds it cannot supply its patrons with many books in the fields of art, literature, and science well worth the reading. Few people are aware how much more valuable is even the smallest library with an exhaustive catalogue of its contents. In the report of the Bureau of Education, speaking of the Boston Public Library, the writer says that "its peculiar advantage lies less in the great number of its books than in the fact that exhaustive catalogues guide the student to just the book he wants; he is not compelled to swell the statistics of circulation by taking out ten books that were not wanted in order to find the volume of which he stands in need." During the last nine or ten years the effect of the modern library movement has been more manifest in this place. The progress of the library up to 1890, as can be seen, was slow, and the trustees felt that something more was needed to make the people acquainted with the wealth of literature at their command, and to have the library do the most effective work. Up to this date the library of about 15,000 volumes had not been classified. Some attempt had been made to furnish extra books for the use of the High School pupils, but very little reference work, on any special subject in a library, can be advantageously done with books arranged only according to size, and new measures were necessarily taken. The first change made under the new conditions was to remove the open-work screen between the library and the people; then upon shelves in the delivery room were put the newer and more desirable books to allow the patrons to handle and to make their selection from them instead of from the catalogue. Gradually people were admitted to

the stack-room to make their choice from any part of the library. The age limit of 14 years for admission to the privileges of the library was abolished and a careful selection of books for young people was made; the idea being not only to stimulate a reading habit in the young people, but to introduce them to the best in literature.

These radical changes had a corresponding effect upon the use of the library; the circulation of books for home use having increased from a little over 28,000 in 1890 to 71,456 in 1897, and again more room was found to be indispensable. As the result of an appropriation made by the city in that year, supplemented by the generosity of one of the library trustees, a new, commodious, well-lighted, well-ventilated stack-room was built, with a present capacity for 30,000 volumes, and room in the future for 30,000 more. The old part of the library was enlarged and very much improved, and is devoted to the reading and reference room, a librarian's room, a delivery room, and a good-sized, sunny, children's room. From the patronage in this department we are assured that the younger people find the library a pleasant place to come to. It has been the aim to make the people feel an ownership in the library; all unnecessary restrictions have been removed; the red tape has been cut in many places; no personal cards for the patrons to care for or lose; no weary waiting while books are charged; no long lists of books an absolute necessity; the privilege of two books to each person has been granted; and the number which any person can have for reference or study limited only by the supply at our command. In all ways is it the desire to make the library seem like a home library. But the most satisfying, the most necessary, the most effective work is that done with the schools and the younger people. A lack of sufficient funds, the last year, has very much restricted this important work, but we have great hope for the future. The value and importance of a child's early reading can hardly be over-

estimated; cultivate in the children a taste for good reading, patriotism, love of truth and beauty. The choice should be not of books written down to children, but the purity of their English should be one of the first considerations. There are so many works that are considered classic and interest all ages to which the attention of children should be drawn. "Children derive," wrote Sir Walter Scott, "impulses of a powerful and important kind from hearing things that they cannot entirely comprehend." The hearty coöperation of the teachers, and especially of Mr. Morss, the Superintendent of Schools, makes our work in this direction much easier and very much more effective. The plan has been to send a selection of twelve books to every school-room in the city, these books to be used by the children in the school, or to be taken home by them at the discretion of the teacher; thus, by making the fifty-nine school-rooms so many branch libraries, every part of the city is represented in our patrons; at the end of six weeks these books are replaced by another set. By this choice selection not only is the reading of the young people improved, but they learn to have a higher ideal in their own choice; thus preparing themselves to become better citizens and able to take their part in the future welfare of the community.

What shall be the future of our library? Let us hope that the citizens of Medford will recognize it as an equally important educational factor with the public schools, and tax themselves as liberally, as cheerfully, and as constantly for its support and improvement. For it is with a town or city as with the individual: it is on the verge of decay when it has reached that state of self-satisfaction where it sees nothing to improve in itself.

MEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Officers

For Year ending March, 1900.

President.

WILLIAM CUSHING WAIT.

Vice-Presidents.

JOHN WARD DEAN, ROSEWELL B. LAWRENCE,
LORIN L. DAME, CHARLES B. DUNHAM.

Recording Secretary.

Miss JESSIE M. DINSMORE.

Corresponding Secretary.

WALTER H. CUSHING.

Treasurer.

CHARLES H. LOOMIS.

Librarian and Curator.

Miss AGNES W. LINCOLN.

Standing Committees.

Membership.

DR. J. E. CLEAVES, FANNIE E. BEMIS,
ANNIE E. DURGIN, A. H. EVANS,
GEO. S. DELANO.

Publication.

E. A. START, R. B. LAWRENCE,
W. H. CUSHING, C. H. MORSS,
C. H. LOOMIS.

Papers and Addresses.

DAVID H. BROWN, JOHN WARD DEAN,
KATHARINE H. STONE, HELEN T. WILD,
DR. R. J. P. GOODWIN, JOHN H. HOOPER.

Historic Sites.

L. L. DAME, W. H. CUSHING,
W. C. EDDY, JOHN H. HOOPER,
ELLA L. BURBANK, MRS. J. M. G. PLUMMER,
HETTY F. WAIT.

Genealogy.

W. I. PARKER, ELLA S. HINCKLEY,
E. ADELAIDE BLACK, HETTY F. WAIT,
ELIZA M. GILL, D. H. BROWN,
ALLSTON P. JOYCE.

Heraldry.

BENJAMIN P. HOLLIS, F. H. C. WOOLLEY,
C. B. DUNHAM, W. F. KINGMAN,
DR. J. HEDENBERG, DR. J. EDSON YOUNG.

Library and Collections.

AGNES W. LINCOLN, MARY E. SARGENT,
BENJAMIN F. FENTON, CATHERINE E. HARLOW,
C. B. JOHNSON, FRANCIS A. WAIT,
H. D. HALL, THOMAS WRIGHT,
ELLA A. LEIGHTON, ABIJAH THOMPSON.

MEMBERS.

Number previously reported, 238.

Dalrymple, Willard.
Fay, Wilton B.
Russell, Harriet J.
Saville, Geo. W. W.
Saville, Helen E.
Simpson, James B.
Street, Mary B.
Thompson, Susan B.

NOTES.

The Annual Meeting of the Historical Society was held in its room on March 20th. Reports of officers and committees were presented and officers elected for the ensuing year. The list will be found elsewhere.

The reports presented showed the Society to be in good working order.

The Treasurer reported all bills paid and a surplus on hand. The Librarian's list showed 150 books and pamphlets added during the year, and numerous accessions to the Cabinet collection.

Thirty-one new members were received during the year, making the total membership now about 250.

The question of new quarters, possibly a Society building, may be considered the coming year.

All members having genealogical blanks on which they are working are requested to hand them in to any member of the committee, for comparisons and information of progress. The papers can be amended or added to, as desired, from time to time. The blanks being in duplicate, one copy can be retained by the member.

The new Executive Board of the Society might be designated as an *alliterative* one: Dean, Dame, Dunham, Dinsmore, Lincoln, Loomis, Lawrence.

GLEANINGS from interviews with the Nominating Committee before election:

What shall you do about a Secretary?

"We shall give them *Jessie*."

How are you getting on with the list of Vice-Presidents?

"Oh, we've *Dunham* up!"

How about your nomination for President?

"It is one that will give *Wait* to the Society."

Who is to be the Corresponding Secretary?

"One who in ancient facts is ever pushing —
The well-known history teacher, Walter Cushing."

A GENERAL meeting of all the committees was held on Saturday evening, March 25. The outline of work in the various departments was informally discussed. The different committees then "sat" by themselves, and, after organizing, chatted socially about their lines of work. The evening was an enjoyable one.

THIS Society has the distinction of numbering among its Vice-Presidents Mr. John Ward Dean, the Librarian of the New England Historic Genealogical Society.

SARAH BRADLEE FULTON CHAPTER, D.A.R., will give a loan exhibit of historic articles and relics in the Royal House, beginning April 19.

AN interesting talk on "Heraldry" was given in the rooms on Saturday evening, Jan. 28, by Fred. H. C. Woolley.

ARE you a member of the Historical Society.

HAVE you subscribed for the Register?

REV. EBENEZER TURELL.

The Medford Historical Register.

VOL. II. JULY, 1899. No. 3.

EARLY MINISTERS OF MEDFORD.[1]

BY REV. HENRY C. DELONG.

WE are to trace the story of the early ministers of Medford. It is important to remember that religion was not, as now, dependent on the support of the individual citizen, but was a public requirement. A town or community was obliged to provide for the preaching of the Gospel, and if the duty was omitted for any reason the General Court punished the neglect with a fine. Medford at one time was summoned before this august body for its failure in this respect. The minister received his call from the town, his salary was fixed by the town, and, save in exceptional circumstances, was raised by a tax on the inhabitants. There is a tradition current that when Miss Mary Osgood was a little girl she fell out with one of her mates and revenged herself by saying: "Your father is nothing but a shoemaker;" to which the instant retort came: "I don't care, your father is supported by the town."

The town was founded in 1630, and as early as 1634 it is recorded there was preaching by Mr. James Noyes for nearly a year. He was born in England in 1608, educated at Oxford, came to Boston in 1634, and was immediately called to preach at Mistic, the name by which Medford was known. He was followed by Rev. Mr. Wilson and Rev. Mr. Phillips; in the tax for the support of these gentlemen Medford paid its share assessed by the General Court. These preachers were paid by six towns, Medford with the others being too poor to support the luxury of a minister by itself alone.

[1] Read before the Medford Historical Society, Nov. 18, 1896.

JOHN HANCOCK.

In 1692 Mr. John Hancock, grandfather of the patriot whose name is indelibly associated with our history, preached here for a short period. The town voted that "he shall be boarded at Mr. John Bradshaw's for the year ensuing if he shall continue his ministry so long among us." His ministry ceased in Nov., 1693. He was born at Cambridge, Mass., in 1671, and graduated at Harvard College in 1689. In 1697 he was called to Lexington, where he continued his ministry until his death in 1752, in the eighty-second year of his age and the fifty-fourth of his ministry.

BENJAMIN COLMAN.

The pulpit was supplied from Harvard College for a considerable period afterward. Among those whose names have come down to us is that of Mr. Benj. Colman. He was graduated at Harvard College in 1692. After supplying the pulpit for about six months he returned to Cambridge to prosecute further his theological studies, and remained there till he took the degree of M.A. in 1695. He went to England for a space of about three years, returning by invitation to become the pastor of the newly formed Brattle-street Church, in which office he continued until his death in 1747. He received the degree of D.D. from the University of Glasgow in 1731. He was chosen President of Harvard College to succeed President Leverett, who died in 1724, but the General Court refused to vote his salary until such time as he should accept the office, and his church should consent to release him from his pastoral charge; neither of these things being done, he never filled the office. He is said to have been a man of much ability, to which were added pulpit graces of a high order, — "with a gifted and cultivated mind he possessed a naturally ardent temperament, a most expressive and benignant countenance, and an uncommon solemnity of

manner that never failed to rivet the attention of his audience. In his style of composition he was regarded as quite a model; and he is said to have contributed more than any other clergyman of that day to elevate the literary character of the New England pulpit."

The name of Mr. Colman deserves honorable mention as one of the earliest who led a movement against the oppressive ecclesiastical domination of the Puritans of Massachusetts Bay. A widespread delusion exists that liberty of conscience in the worship of God was the purpose for which our fathers left the Old World and braved the hardships of the New. In Plymouth Colony there was such liberty; but in that of Massachusetts Bay it did not exist, and the clergy at least were determined it should not exist. The persecution of Quakers and Baptists was wholly in accord with their purpose that there should be but one form of religion here — that which they held. To keep this pure it was required that every candidate for the ministry should pass a rigid theological examination by a council of the elders, and that every layman who would become a church member should make a confession of faith before the assembled church, prove his soundness in the essentials of Calvinism, and further, that he should relate his "experiences." But against these things there had arisen a small party of protest, among whom was the distinguished name of President Leverett of Harvard College. In furtherance of this it was proposed to form a new church in Boston, and in 1698 Thos. Brattle gave a piece of land in Brattle square for this purpose. From the outset there was no doubt who should be the minister. Rev. Benj. Colman sympathized with the liberal sentiment of the founders; indeed he had gone to England because he was unwilling to take up the ministry at the time he was preaching in the Medford church on such hard and fast terms as were then required. A call was extended to him while in Bath, England, to become pastor of the newly formed Brattle-square Church, and it being doubt-

ful whether the elders of Boston would ordain him, precaution was taken to have him ordained in England so that on his arrival he should have the full legal rights of a Congregational minister. The innovations of this new church seem to us very mild. They consisted, first, in the admission of members to the church without the relation of experiences, upon their confession of the Westminster creed; second, the right of every baptized member who contributed to his maintenance to have a vote in the choice of a minister (previously only men were allowed this right); and third, this church relaxed the very strict baptismal regulations, and permitted the Bible to be read without the comment by the minister.

Mr. Colman is further connected with Medford in being the father of the first wife of Rev. Benj. Ebenezer Turell, whose acquaintance we shall make a little later.

BENJAMIN WOODBRIDGE.

The minister who followed these in the Medford pulpit was the Rev. Benjamin Woodbridge. He was the son of the Rev. John Woodbridge, of Andover. He was not a graduate from college. He was first settled over a Presbyterian church in Windsor, Conn., which was formed as a second church on account of some difference as to the call of Rev. Nathaniel Chauncy. Much contention existed between the two churches, in which Mr. Woodbridge was involved, and finally he withdrew after two hundred acres of land had been granted him in payment for services that had been unrecompensed. This grant was by decree of the court to which he had appealed. The words of the grant are: "that this grant is made as a final issue of all strife since it may be hazardous to the peace of the town to enter particularly into the bowels of the case as matters are circumstanced."

Next he appears at Bristol in Plymouth County, where he seems to have had a similar experience, and

later at Kittery, Me. In 1698 he came to Medford as a candidate on probation. March 28 of this year the inhabitants, at a general town meeting properly adjourned from a meeting regularly called two weeks before, voted that, "when legally settled amongst us in the work of the ministry," Mr. Woodbridge "should have forty pounds in money, fifteen cords of wood, and strangers' money, for annuity," and he seems to have accepted this proposition as if it had been a regular and legal call to become the settled minister of the town. But that the town understood it otherwise is evident from the fact that in September, 1701, the town again voted that he should still continue as their minister, and two persons were chosen "to discourse Mr. Woodbridge, and know his mind concerning settling in the town in the work of the ministry." At the same meeting it was further voted that "the town would give him thirty pounds for his encouragement toward the building a house and settling as aforesaid; said money to be raised either by subscription or by way of rate; and further it is understood that the thirty pounds should be returned by Mr. Benj. Woodbridge to the town if he did not settle and continue with us in the work of the ministry, aforesaid." In 1703, while building his house, Mr. Woodbridge had a controversy with the workmen who were employed by him; the difference was referred to four prominent ministers of the province, who decided "that his contention was a serious impediment to his settling, and his treatment of the workmen pronounced contrary to a good conscience."

In May of this year the selectmen assessed a rate of forty-five pounds and three shillings for the cash and the value of the firewood due Mr. Woodbridge, and apportioned the same among the tax-payers. He construed this act of the selectmen as evidence that he was the legally settled minister. But the town thought otherwise, and, as we shall see, was sustained by the

court in its opinion, and in March, 1703–4, they voted not to settle him "until some things be better composed" relating to him, and voted "to refer the difficulty to the elders at Boston." They were the Revs. Increase Mather and Samuel Willard, who said, "Our advice having been asked whether it be proper to proceed unto an immediate settlement of a church state whilst the present uneasiness and alienation of minds remain uncured, we cannot but declare that it seems to us not desirable. If it appears hopeless to the discerning Christians in the place (whereof we at this distance make not ourselves the judges) it seems better for them to study the methods of parting as lovingly and speedily as they can, than, by continuing longer together, and carrying on a controversy, to produce exasperations that may defeat all other attempts to come at a desirable settlement."

This decision of the elders of Boston was given May 2, 1704, and on May 29, at a meeting adjourned from May 15, the town voted that "Ensign Francis and John Francis should inform Mr. Woodbridge that the meeting was adjourned to June the 19th ensuing that he might have a further opportunity to give satisfaction to the town and the other dissatisfied persons in the town, that the town might proceed either to a more full and complete settlement or a dismission." Whether Mr. Woodbridge appeared at this adjourned meeting, "to give satisfaction to the town and the other dissatisfied persons in the town," does not appear in the records of the meeting, but at this time the town voted that "the call to Mr. Woodbridge in March, 1698, was conditional upon his performing the whole work of an ordained minister, and though we invited Mr. Woodbridge to preach the word of God amongst us as abovesaid, the time that he hath continued with us since said invitation hath been the season of his probation amongst us, in which time of probation Mr. Woodbridge hath given such offence to the carpenters that erected his house, and to several of

the inhabitants in said town, that it seems hopeless to us of gaining Mr. Woodbridge to give any competent satisfaction to the offended persons after long waiting and many means used; and whereas the obligation of the town to Mr. Woodbridge was conditional referring to his salary as abovesaid, and he not performing the condition on his part, therefore, put to vote whether they will thereupon make null and void and of none effect the votes relating to Mr. Woodbridge's salary so far as they had reference to a settled minister, notwithstanding any vote or votes to the contrary." This vote was in the affirmative, whereupon Mr. Woodbridge applied to the Governor and Council for their assistance. The Council advised Mr. Woodbridge and the town to become mutually reconciled to each other. It is likely that Mr. Woodbridge's appeal to the Governor and Council was to procure an order from them requiring the town to settle him in the ministry. Failing in this, the next step was to present the town to the grand jury in attendance upon the Superior Court at Charlestown, Jan. 30, 1704, for a breach of the law in not having a settled minister, the immediate issue of which was that the court ordered the town "to take effectual care to obtain a settled minister, and make report of their doings therein to the next Court of Sessions." Before the time expired for the town to report, in accordance with this order of the court, Mr. Woodbridge seems to have taken steps to gather an independent church and congregation, as he had done at Windsor, in defiance of Congregational usage and the laws of the province; for at a meeting of the town March 5, 1704, this charge is made against him, and it was voted "that the town do declare themselves highly dissatisfied at Mr. Woodbridge's late irregular attempts and actions about gathering a church, and do protest against his going on in the offensive way that he is in, and forbid his preaching any more in their public meeting house." This action of the town led to the calling of

an ecclesiastical council to hear and decide upon the matter in dispute. The council said that Mr. Woodbridge was the chief blameable cause for the obstructions to a quiet and regular settlement and enjoyment of all Gospel ordinances in Medford; that the town acted blameably in their vote about silencing Mr. Woodbridge and taking away his salary; and concluded by recommending that Mr. Woodbridge should by suitable acknowledgments endeavor to ease the minds of those aggrieved; and that after such endeavors he should preach for a while in Medford, and the inhabitants should attend on his ministry; and if after some suitable time for trial they cannot agree, that they should part from one another as quietly as they can. Several suits at law were brought by Mr. Woodbridge before the quietness came, the Superior Court deciding that he was not the settled minister, and finally the contention ceased by the town's paying him in full for all demands and purchasing his real estate for two hundred and seventy pounds. The conclusion of the matter was reached in 1708, and Mr. Woodbridge continued to live in Medford till his death two years later, when the town promptly and generously voted ten pounds for the expenses of his funeral.

JOHN TUFTS.

After Mr. Woodbridge's death Mr. John Tufts, son of Mr. Peter Tufts, of Medford, was engaged to supply the pulpit, which he did for about six months. The town gave him a call to the pulpit in December, 1711, to settle on a salary of fifty pounds and strangers' money. In his reply he neither accepts nor declines the invitation. The reason seems to be that the feud left from Mr. Woodbridge's ministry had not wholly died out. His name appears again among the three candidates from whom the town made choice of a minister in 1712, when the lot fell to Mr. Aaron Porter.

Mr. Tufts was afterward the honored minister of the church in Newbury.

AARON PORTER.

The last Wednesday of April, 1712, the town appointed as "a day of fasting and prayer to humble ourselves before God for those divisions and contentions that hath so long prevailed among us, and obstructed the peaceable enjoyment of Gospel ordinances." After the religious exercises they were to meet, and out of the three candidates who had the highest number they were to select one as their pastor. Mr. Aaron Porter was the choice, and in May, 1712, the town voted to invite him to become their minister. His salary was to be fifty-five pounds, and to be increased two pounds annually until it reached the sum of seventy pounds. To this was added the strangers' money and twenty cords of wood, or seven pounds. Mr. Porter, in accepting the invitation, demanded one hundred pounds as a settlement, as was the custom, which was cheerfully given to him.

He was born in Hadley, Mass., in 1689; graduated at Harvard in 1708; and was settled in Medford, where he was ordained to the ministry, in 1712, when a day of fasting and prayer was appointed, and the Church of Christ in Medford was gathered by a number of the brethren signing a covenant prepared for that purpose. In October, 1713, he was married to Miss Susan Sewell, of Salem, daughter of Stephen Sewell, and niece of Judge Samuel Sewell. Judge Sewell's entry in his diary, under date of October 22, is interesting: "I go to Salem; see Mr. Noyes marry Mr. Aaron Porter and Miss Susan Sewell at my brother's. Was a pretty deal of company present." After naming the more distinguished among the elders, he says: "Many young gentlemen and gentlewomen. Mr. Noyes made a speech: said, 'Love was the sugar to sweeten

every condition in the married relation.' After the sack-posset sung the forty-fifth Psalm from the eighth verse to the end, five staves. I set it to Windsor tune." After about nine years of ministry Mr. Porter died on Jan. 23, 1722, at the age of thirty-three. Very little is known of Mr. Porter's ministry. The town was small and feeble, and had been torn by dissensions over Mr. Woodbridge. He must have been a wise man and gentle to have healed the trouble. By his formal settlement the First Parish was formally instituted, the formation of a church being necessary to this. For seventy-eight years the town had been without a settled minister, but now with Mr. Porter's ministry it took on regular and stable ways.

EBENEZER TURELL.

In June, 1724, after fasting and prayer, and a sermon by Rev. Benjamin Colman, of Boston, the town voted to call Rev. Ebenezer Turell to be their minister, a hundred pounds settlement, and ninety pounds salary and strangers' money, to be paid semi-annually. At his request, in his letter of acceptance, the salary was increased to one hundred pounds. It is worthy of note that money had even more instability of value in those days than in ours, so that at times it was necessary to vote the amount of the salary each year. In 1749, for instance, the salary was made five hundred pounds (old tenor).

There are traces of humor in Mr. Turell. He married Miss Jane Colman, daughter of Rev. Dr. Colman, of Boston, with whom he studied theology after leaving college, and evidently found something more interesting. The first Sunday after his marriage to her — she was a very handsome brunette — he preached from the text in the book of Canticles, "I am black, but comely, O ye daughters of Jerusalem." He continued his ministry until 1778, dying of old age, it is said, in his seventy-seventh year and the fifty-fourth

of his pastorate. The picture of him now in the possession of the First Parish represents him in his bands and wig at about middle life as a man of amiable nature, to whom the good things of this world were not wholly displeasing. But he was also possessed of much force of character, and of independent mind. A sermon of his in favor of inoculation for smallpox showed some courage in that day when it was thought that the use of this preventive agency was flying in the face of Providence. More important was the calmness of his judgment and his critical discrimination upon the subject of witchcraft. He published a pamphlet about this, making a careful analysis of a case of witchcraft which had occurred in Littleton, in which he exposed the tricks which two sisters had played upon the easy credulity of the community and equally upon that of their parents. I am struck too with the poise of his mind in the religious excitements, so-called, which were inaugurated by Rev. Geo. Whitefield. In 1742 he published a pamphlet called "A Direction to my People in relation to the Present Times," in which the excesses of emotional fervor are declaimed against and a religion founded on truth and soberness is commended.

During Mr. Turell's ministry, in 1759, the church voted to read the Scriptures in the congregation. Until this time the service had consisted of psalm-singing, the short and long prayers, and the sermon. In his time also the Tate and Brady version of the Psalms was substituted for that of the Dunster version, and singers' seats were built for the choir. The singers were chosen by the chorister, and the selectmen "approbated" them, — for our fathers used that barbarous word.

During his ministry he baptized 1,037 persons, married 220 couples, and admitted to the church 323 communicants. But these bare statistics tell us little of the influence for good of a man who for more than half a

century gave all that was in him to the helping and uplifting of his fellows, who represented the highest education of his time, and with sincerity and love gave himself to all good causes. His fine old house, which used to stand at what we are now taught to call Winthrop square, used to speak to me of him, and to have an air of quiet dignity and good breeding with which his presence had haunted it. I wish he had not been so much disturbed at the town's voting to build the new church in 1769, on the spot on which the First Parish Church now stands, as to revoke the clause of his will leaving it to the town.

DAVID OSGOOD.

In March, 1774, Mr. David Osgood was invited to preach as a candidate for settlement as colleague to Rev. Mr. Turell, and on April 18, 1774, received an invitation from the church and town. Sixty gentlemen voted for him, and six against him. The opposition was on theological grounds, he being a Calvinist and they Arminians. These distinctions were better understood by our fathers than by us, and the names may not carry with them definite meanings. The point of difference, it may be well to state, touched chiefly the question of the freedom of the will — of man's ability by his own choice to become a subject of salvation. The pure Calvinist held that salvation was only by the election of God, that he had from all eternity chosen such as should be saved, and had passed over all others. The Arminian held that salvation was within the reach of all if they would choose it and comply with its terms. Because of the weight of the six votes against him Mr. Osgood declined the call to the Medford church. The town then chose a committee to consult with the opponents of Mr. Osgood, but nothing came of it. Finally, Mr. Osgood accepted the call. The salary was eighty pounds during Mr. Turell's life,

and ninety pounds afterward. He was ordained Sept. 14, 1774, making a statement of his belief before the ecclesiastical council called from neighboring churches to ordain him. Three of the six opponents called upon him the morning after his ordination and said to him: "We opposed the giving you a call, and we opposed your ordination; we did this from our deepest convictions of duty to Christ and his church; but as we have failed in all our efforts, and you are now to begin your ministry among us, we have come to tell you that our opposition ceases, and that you will find us constant attendants on your ministrations, and ready to aid you in your holy work."

Fortunately it is possible to describe Dr. Osgood by means of his contemporaries and friends.

Miss Lucy Osgood wrote of her father, May 6, 1848:

"My father was born in Andover, October, 1747. I do not remember the day of the month, as he was never in the habit of observing anniversaries. His father, Mr. Isaac Osgood, a sensible, pious farmer, lived in the southwestern part of the town near the borders of Tewksbury, upon a farm originally purchased, I believe, by his grandfather. The picture of the ancient house is contained in the memoir of the patriot James Otis, who was boarding in my grandfather's family when a flash of lightning killed him in the doorway, partial insanity having caused his friends to seek the retirement of a country residence for him. My father was the eldest of four sons. After laboring on the farm until his nineteenth year he begged that he might receive his portion in a liberal education, the work of the ministry being the object of his highest ambition. Upon a Saturday evening, as he has often told us, he at length won his father's reluctant consent to his proposal, and at break of day on the following Monday morning he walked three or four miles in pursuit of a young schoolmaster with whom he was slightly acquainted, that he might consult him in regard to the books which it would be

necessary for him to procure and study. From him he learned for the first time of the Latin Accidence, and obtained the loan of it. This he mastered in a short time, and in a few weeks afterward he placed himself under the care of the Rev. Mr. Emerson, of Hollis, who was in the habit of receiving youths into his family and fitting them for college. During these preparatory studies he was unremitting in his diligence, constantly spending from fourteen to sixteen hours every day over his books, so that he entered college in sixteen months from the time of his determining to be a scholar. After receiving his degree in 1771 he pursued his theological studies for a year in Cambridge. I am not aware that his professional studies were under the direction of any clergyman. Motives of economy compelled him to reside at his father's as soon as he commenced preaching, and this he did within two years after leaving college. He preached on probation both in the little town of Boxford, and in Charlestown before coming to Medford, and was very near being settled in each place, finally missing both of them, as he often amused himself with telling, on account of directly opposite allegations,— being suspected at Boxford of a perilous leaning to Arminianism, and at Charlestown of an undue bias in favor of high Calvinism.

"It was at the close of the year 1773, or early in 1774, that he was first invited to supply the Medford pulpit, during the long infirmity of the pastor, Rev. Ebenezer Turell. In those days it was customary for the candidates to be invited about in the parish from house to house, instead of being sent to a boarding-place. My father used to ride down from Andover on horseback on Saturday, and return the following Monday. After being entertained in various families he at last received an invitation from one Mr. Richard Hall to lodge at his house on his next visit to the town. The result of this casual invitation was a friendship which formed the crowning blessing of both

their lives. After partaking of the hospitality of this worthy man and his excellent wife he requested that their house might be his abiding-place. They joyfully consented, and he was their inmate during the ensuing twelve years. In this excellent couple my father was blessed with friends who felt for him more than he felt for himself. In innumerable instances the natural impetuosity of his temper was checked solely by unwillingness to occasion uneasiness to these ever-watchful guardians of his happiness; while they, on the other part, always looked up to him as to a superior intelligence, without, however, losing their own independence, which was manifested on every proper occasation in all plainness of speech, by cautions as well as commendations. One of my earliest recollections is my father's often-expressed desire that he might not outlive these dear friends; and the wish was granted, as, several years after his decease, they dropped away in extreme old age. A little anecdote will show the estimation in which their mutual friendship was held in the town during their lifetime. Ten years or more before my father's death Deacon Hall had a dangerous fit of illness. A note was read upon his behalf on the Sabbath, with another, — for a very intemperate Irishman, who was also ill. They both recovered, and the first time the Irishman went abroad his next-door neighbor, a merry sea-captain, accosted him with, 'Well, Patrick, you may bless Heaven till your latest day for having been sick at the same time with the Deacon, for the Doctor prayed so hard to keep him here that he was obliged to beg a little for you.'

"On the 14th day of September, 1774, my father was ordained as the colleague of the Rev. Mr. Turell, whose death did not take place until several years afterward. In November, 1786, he married Miss Hannah Breed, of Billerica. My father and mother were born within two months of one another, and were forty years old when they became parents. My mother died Jan. 4, 1818,

in her seventy-first year. Her death was sudden, after a few hours' illness, though she had been an invalid for the preceding twelve years. It took place at one o'clock on the morning of the Sabbath, and my father preached on both parts of the following day, pleading, in opposition to the remonstrances of some of his friends, that as his preparation for the pulpit was completed, he should be more able to command his feelings there than anywhere else.

"Few lives were ever less varied by outward events of a personal character than my father's, but he had within himself a perennial freshness of feeling which caused him always to be interested in his studies, in the stirring events of the time in which he lived, and the concerns of those around him. Books were his perpetual solace and delight. The hurried manner in which he received his literary education having allowed him no leisure for any thorough acquaintance with the Greek and Roman classics, they possessed all the charm of novelty for him in his more advanced age. In the latter years of his life he read the Greek historians, orators, and tragedians with the liveliest pleasure. As the hour immediately succeeding breakfast was always devoted by him to these studies, it was in his power, during a succession of years, to read all the most distinguished Greek and Roman authors — the whole of Plutarch's writings, and many of the volumes of Plato, while the histories of Herodotus and Thucydides received his delighted attention : and to these noble sources he was probably much indebted for the continued growth of his mind, as well as for the freshness and accuracy which were thought by many to distinguish his compositions. His habits of study differed from those of many clergymen. His preparation for the ensuing Sunday usually commenced early in the week, often on Monday, unless there were sick persons to be visited. His evenings were giving to general reading. He always wrote slowly and with fastidious care ; but he never ceased

from the labor of composition. Having commenced an exposition of the Scriptures many years before his decease, it was continued to the last week of his life, and he often rejoiced at feeling himself laid under a necessity, imposed by his task, of writing more or less every week. The few last years of his life were in one respect most happy, as he saw himself surrounded by a number of young friends just entering on the ministry, whom he could with reason regard as the fruits of his own labors. He expressed the highest satisfaction when in the forty-fifth year of his ministry he stood in the pulpit for the first time with one of his own parishioners. Two others in succession occupied that place with him previous to his death, and they were followed shortly afterward by three more."

Rev. John Pierce, D.D., of Brookline, Mass., writing of him in 1848, says: "The first thing which gave him great celebrity was a political sermon in 1794, occasioned by an appeal to the people from the decision of the American Government under Washington, by Genet, minister to the United States from the French Republic. This discourse passed through three editions within a few months, the last at Philadelphia. From this period he was greatly admired and caressed by many of our leading politicians of the Federal school, and both in public and in private he stood forth the earnest and powerful advocate of their principles. It is not a little remarkable that of his twenty-two published discourses just one-half should be on political subjects. Of these the most celebrated was his election sermon, preached in 1809. It was nearly two hours in delivery; was pronounced wholly *memoriter*, and with prodigious effect.

"Dr. Osgood was of about middle height, inclining in the latter part of his life to corpulency. He was to the last erect in stature. His countenance was strongly marked, indicating great power of intellect and firmness of purpose. He ruled well his household; but whatever of austerity belonged to him, it never prevented a

free intercourse between himself and his children. These he had instructed with great care, so that they are among our most distinguished proficients in the Greek and Latin languages.

"I believe he wrote a much smaller number of sermons than is common during a long ministry. Most of them, however, were so thoroughly elaborated that they might very well have been sent to the press without revision. His favorite discourses he often repeated at home ; and in his later years he delivered them wholly *memoriter* whenever he preached on exchange, so that they became generally celebrated in the neighboring parishes. He had a parishioner who, though simple enough in other respects, had a remarkably retentive memory ; and when hearing the Doctor preach an old sermon he used to raise his arm and signify with his fingers how many times it had been preached before.

"In the pulpit he certainly attained an eminence that was reached by few of his contemporaries. In the delivery of his sermons he was usually very deliberate ; but when he became greatly excited his utterance waxed rapid and earnest, and he came down upon his audience with the overwhelming force of a torrent. To the discourses he committed to memory his stirring and impassioned delivery gave the effect in a great degree of extemporaneous efforts."

Under date of 1848, Rev. Convers Francis writes: "My early recollections of Dr. Osgood's pulpit services are strong, though of course I could not appreciate them as I did subsequently. But even when I was a child they seemed to me something extraordinary — different from those of any other minister. His prayers were evidently elaborated with devout care; they were always strong and earnest. There were a certain number of them which he so constantly repeated that when I was young I could easily rehearse large portions of them, and while he was praying could anticipate what was coming next. In pouring out his petitions his voice

frequently took on a solemn or pathetic energy, and his countenance an expression of fervent entreaty, — his eye being sometimes suffused with a tear, which gave the deepest and most touching effect to the supplications. In these devotional exercises he made not a little use of strong and bold figures, both from the Scriptures and of his own construction. One of these was: 'Ride forth, King Jesus, triumphant on the word of truth ; make it like a sword to pierce and like a hammer to break in pieces, and dissolve the hard and stony heart into godly sorrow for sin.'

"There were times when Dr. Osgood's preaching in boldness, vigor, and authoritative dignity surpassed that of any other man of his day in New England. I remember to have heard that when Daniel Webster removed to Boston and listened to Dr. Osgood for the first time in the Brattle-square Church he said it was the most impressive eloquence it had ever been his fortune to hear. My own early remembrance of his appearance and words in the pulpit is one of unmingled reverence. He seemed to me like an apostolic messenger from God. His whitening and at length silvered hair, his dignified look, and what I may call the whole presence of the man, enhanced the effect of the earnestness, and frequently the awful solemnity, with which he took our souls into the midst of the great truths of eternity. He sometimes committed to memory parts of his sermons with which he had taken peculiar pains, or which he thought peculiarly important. When he came to deliver these he would deliberately take off his spectacles, and either lay them on the pulpit cushion or hold them in one hand; then with an altered and subdued voice, and with a sort of gathering up of his whole person, he would say, 'My brethren,' and then followed the earnest appeal, or the powerful statement, or the vivid description.

"Everybody who has heard of Dr. Osgood at all has heard of his apparently harsh and rude sayings, and of

his neglect or contempt of what the world calls politeness and decorum. The truth was, he was originally a man of strong and somewhat rough nature, who abhorred disguise, pretence, and quackery of all sorts, — open, bold, and uncompromising, thinking much of realities and little of conventional standards. He had rough impulses, and spoke blunt words; but I am sure that what might appear to be unkindness or rudeness was in reality the result of uncalculating, spontaneous honesty of soul. His heart was essentially and truly a kind, Christian, noble heart, and would sometimes melt into an unexpected tenderness, that was the more touching in a man of his strong qualities. For myself, I must say that from the earliest to the latest period I always found him kind, benevolent, and considerate toward me. I preached my first sermon in his pulpit; it was a trying day to me; but the sharpness of the trial was increased by his taking me into his study before meeting and saying: 'Come, you must read your discourses to me before you preach, that I may give you my opinion of them.' With no little perturbation I complied, and as I read, he would say to some of my youthful crudities of thought or expression, 'That won't do; you must alter that.' I passed through the ordeal with trembling on my spirit; and although the good man's manner was certainly not soft or flattering, yet he meant it in all kindness, and afterwards he encouraged, and comforted, and animated me not a little. I have often thought that what was often construed as severity or roughness in Dr. Osgood might have been simply the result of more fearlessness than other men possessed. Moral courage was one of the strong elements of his character — it never quailed; he would say what he thought he ought to say, or what the case required, let men think what they would of it. It is easy to see that a man of such feelings and principles might often be misconstrued or misrepresented. Nevertheless, the lion heart is often the kindest of hearts."

Two volumes of his collected and printed sermons came to me from his daughter, Miss Lucy Osgood, a woman of rare learning and worth. Consequently I have a clearer and more definite opinion of him than of the others I have sketched. While one cannot get the same impression of a strong preacher from reading as from hearing him, and must miss his personal quality, still there was enough of this in Dr. Osgood to fill his words, and to breathe from the printed page though it has grown sere with age. His was a strong and virile mind, with a firm grasp of whatever subject he undertook to treat. Among them all there is but one controversial discourse, which was preached in Malden to prevent, if possible, the formation of a Baptist church. The religious sermons are plain, well-reasoned, earnest discourses. The style is not the brightest, is rarely relieved by illustration or figures of speech. He was at his best in his political sermons, which were always preached on special occasions, such as Thanksgiving or Fast days. One of them has a rather striking title : "The Devil Let Loose," and has as its topic the danger and menace of the French Revolution. He exposes its godlessness with force and severity. Very likely he felt the evil of its contagion upon American life. He was himself a stanch Federalist, no lover of the democratic tendency of the nation, especially no lover of Jefferson ; and his fear of democracy is not disguised. The sermon referred to by Rev. Dr. Pierce, preached on Thanksgiving Day, 1794, occasioned by the appeal from the decision of the United States Government to the people of the United States, by Genet, minister of the French Republic to the United States, who went to Charleston to fit out vessels of war against England, is able in its representation of the situation, and in the force with which it presents the fatal danger to the country if it does not stand loyally by the decisions of the General Government. But I have been even more impressed by a

noble and eloquent discourse delivered after the death of George Washington.

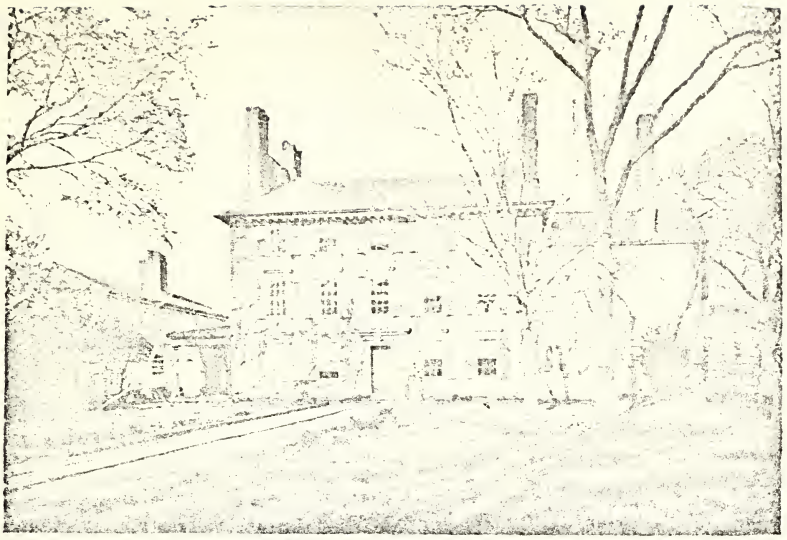
Permit me to read a passage from it that you may test its quality: "At the head of armies, and at the helm of government, there have been some, who in the height of their elevation, amidst all the allurements of interest, pride, ambition, and sensuality, while covered with glory, invested with power, and abounding in wealth, have yet shown themselves able to control their passions, to moderate their desires, to forego all selfish views, and preserve a character for piety, benevolence, disinterestedness, justice, meekness, temperance, purity; in short for whatever is amiable, lovely, and praiseworthy in religion, morals, and manners. Undismayed at the most formidable prospects, and uncontaminated amidst the strongest temptations to corruption, no bribe could seduce them, no terror could overawe them. They were never melted by pleasure into effeminacy, nor sunk by misfortunes into despondency. In their private deportment and public conduct they displayed dignity and magnanimity without pride; humility without meanness; justice without partiality, harshness, or severity; courage without rashness or presumption. Wary and circumspect, though not artful or designing, they were wise and penetrating in discovering and eluding the snares of enemies and opponents; sagacious and prudent in foreseeing and guarding against dangers and accidents; never exposing themselves, or the cause with which they were entrusted, to any risk, detriment, or embarrassment which could be decently and honorably avoided. I do not remember to have read in any volume of profane history, whether ancient or modern, nor even in the fictions of romance, of a single character so exempt from every spot of vice, every shade of weakness or indiscretion; so complete in the abilities of a general, in the talents of a statesman, in the virtues of a citizen, equal to him who, at the call of his country, headed our armies through the

long series of trying scenes which attended our Revolution ; whose influence saved our all from being lost by division ; held together, or, at least, was the most important tie in preventing the disjunction and dissolution of the first slender and ill-cemented union of these States ; who presided on the great occasion when, by an ameliorated national compact, they were consolidated when the admirable machine of our present general government was constructed ; who put the machine in motion, and through the course of eight years so guided its operations as to enable his fellow-citizens fully to enjoy all its signal advantages ; and after having retired with the utmost dignity and honor from the cares of state to spend the short remains of life in preparation for its closing scenes, foreign violence and intrigue, combined with the turbulent, malignant spirit of domestic faction, rearing their Gorgon form and menacing the fair fabric which his labors had been so instrumental in raising, his patriotic ardor grew indignant ; stepping back from his beloved retreat he again brandished his sword, and with all the majesty of heaven-inspired virtue frowned on the rebel-rout of demons let loose. At this awful juncture Divine Providence removed him from a world no longer worthy of such goodness."

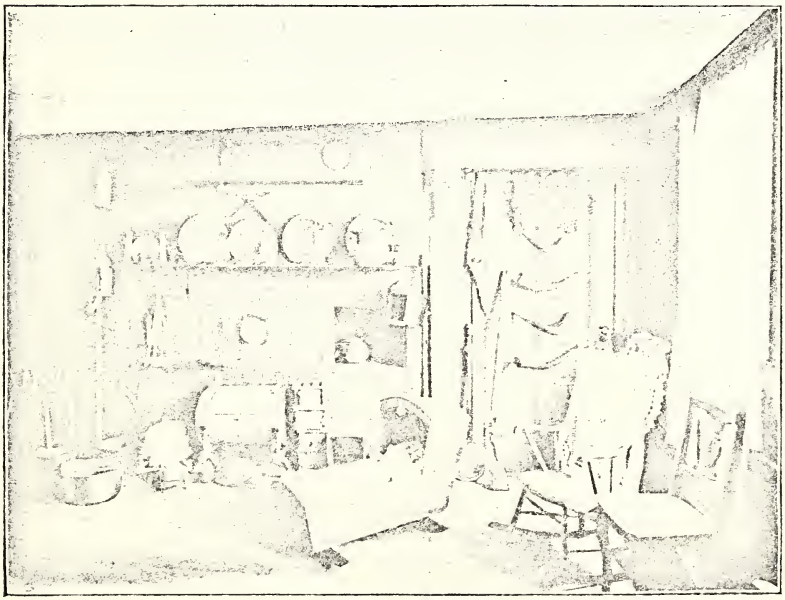
In bringing this study of our early ministers to a close I am deeply persuaded that Medford has no memories better worth preserving than those of the estimable, scholarly, and devoted men who in her ancient church were forces of good. Far beyond our power to measure, they contributed to the intelligent, faithful, and robust character which gave to New England a commanding place in our national history. During the Revolutionary struggle the pulpit of these colonies was one of the most powerful influences on behalf of liberty, strengthening the heroic spirit which carried the people through the sufferings and hardships of the time. However a later generation may regard some

beliefs which these men held, this, at least, none will question, that their religion bred men and women of sturdy, self-denying character, and prepared the way for a nation based on freedom and the rights of man. It was most fortunate that the ecclesiastical polity was in harmony with the spirit of liberty, that democracy in the church went hand in hand with democracy in the state. It was good when the time came that church and state were separated here and when; in 1833, the last remains of the connection of the church with the civil power were removed, religion entered upon a freer and wider career.

The portrait of Rev. Ebenezer Turell, from which the frontispiece in this number of the Register is taken, was given to the First Church in Medford by Dudley Hall, Sen., father of the late Dudley C. Hall, to whom it came by inheritance from Turell Tufts, of Medford. It was loaned at one time to the Hon. Samuel Turell Armstrong, Lieutenant-Governor of Massachusetts, and a great-grand-nephew of Rev. Mr. Turell. The loan of the picture was continued to Mr. Armstrong's widow and on her death was returned to the church. The name of the painter of the portrait is not known, so far as can be learned.



THE ROYALL HOUSE, MEDFORD.



A CORNER IN THE KITCHEN OF THE ROYALL HOUSE DURING THE LOAN EXHIBITION.

THE ROYALL HOUSE LOAN EXHIBITION.

April 19 to April 29, 1899.

ON Patriots' Day the Sarah Bradlee Fulton Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution opened in the Royall House a loan exhibition, which continued for ten days. It was a most successful attempt to bring the Medford of to-day in closer touch with its historic past.

Not the least interesting part of the exhibition was the house itself, which still remains one of the finest examples of the old-colonial mansions of New England. The exact date of the building of the house is lost in obscurity. Tradition says it was built by John Usher, afterward lieutenant-governor of New Hampshire, but there is evidence that a house stood on the site when Usher bought it of the heirs of Governor Winthrop. In 1737 Isaac Royall, Senior, remodelled and embellished the house, and one year after, his son Isaac brought his bride there and took possession. Henceforth the house became one of the notable social centres of colonial life. Through the massive gateway and into the paved court to the west door rolled the stately carriages of the Vassals and other noted families of Boston and vicinity, and Colonel Royall returned the visits in the only chariot which was owned for miles on the north side of Boston. His slaves lived in the old brick building standing just back of the mansion. His stables were on the north side of the driveway, on the site now occupied by No. 21 Royal street. Around him in all directions stretched his fertile acres, reaching to Mystic river on the north and to Winter hill on the south. His garden was crowned by an artificial mound on which stood an artistic summer house with arched windows and bell-shaped roof, surmounted by a figure of Mercury. The broad paths from the garden gate to the summer house and from the east door to the street

were bordered with box, and over the driveway waved English elms. A high brick wall surrounded the homestead except directly in front, where there was a low wall surmounted by a wooden fence with panelled gate and posts. The hall, staircase, drawing-room, and guest chamber are elaborately carved; the recessed windows on either side of the fireplaces are especially effective. The panels over the mantels are without seam. The open fireplaces have been bricked up except in the third story; the tiles which surrounded them are scattered, and the leather hangings which adorned the walls have been destroyed. Otherwise the house is much as Colonel Royall left it.

During the siege of Boston the house was the headquarters of the New Hampshire division of the Continental Army. There is no authentic tradition that it was occupied by Washington, although an old record says that prisoners were taken to "Washington's Headquarters at Royall's." Stark and his staff occupied the house until after the battle of Bunker hill. The riderless horse of Major McClary, of Epsom, N.H., found his way back to the Royall stables, and doubtless his dead master lay in state in one of the parlors until he was carried forth to his unknown grave. There is a tradition that a council of war was held in the summer house on the eve of the battle of Bunker hill. General Lee and General Sullivan later occupied the house, and the former named it "Hobgoblin Hall." When the property passed into the hands of the government, Col. Richard Cary, of Charlestown, occupied the house for some years.

In the early part of this century the estate was bought by a syndicate, chief among whom were Samuel Dexter, of Roxbury, and Benjamin Hall, of Medford. They sold the mansion-house and gardens to William Welch, who bought for investment. One Thomas Hughes was a tenant until the estate was bought and refitted by Jacob Tidd, Esq., in 1815. His family remained in possession for nearly sixty years.

"In that mansion used to be
Free-hearted Hospitality.
His great fires up the chimney roared,
The stranger feasted at his board;

"From that chamber, clothed in white,
The bride came forth on her wedding night;
There, in that silent room below,
The dead lay in his shroud of snow.

. . . "the illuminated hall
Is thronged with quiet, inoffensive ghosts,
As silent as the pictures on the wall."

After the death of Madam Tidd the walls and fences were removed, the outlying land was sold for house lots, and streets were laid out until the old house was left, with its slave quarters and summer house, in the midst of a two-acre lot. Later the summer house was removed, but happily not entirely destroyed. It is now the property of the Sarah Bradlee Fulton Chapter. Parts of it were on exhibition during the festival week.

Beautiful spring weather, budding trees, and springing flowers made the outside of the house attractive during the exhibition, and in the evening the soft candlelight from the muslin-curtained windows seemed to bid the visitor welcome. As he passed under the Stars and Stripes which waved over the doorway, and was greeted by ladies in the gowns of their foremothers, he felt that time had turned backward in its flight. The rooms did not suggest an exhibition. They were furnished with ancient furniture, mostly mahogany, loaned by present or former residents of Medford. Some pieces had been in town a century or more. The "thousand-leg" table, which was the centrepiece in the drawing-room, was brought to this country in 1680. General Stark's clock stood at the head of the stairs, which its distinguished owner had often trod.

Scattered about the house were chairs which belonged to Dr. David Osgood, the young preacher of Medford

in the days of the Revolution. His daughter's cradle was in the kitchen. A chair which stood in the square pew of Nathan Wait in the third meeting-house was in the hall. Beside it was a chair which was blown out of a house in West Medford during the tornado of 1815. A chair which belonged to Governor Brooks was exhibited, which was bought for a trifle from a woman who was using it for a wash-bench. The good governor's effects went under the hammer, hence the ignoble fate of this piece of mahogany. Four chairs had belonged to Rev. Edward Brooks, an ancestor of Phillips Brooks. On April 19, 1775, the "Patriot Preacher" shouldered his musket and went, a volunteer, to Concord fight, and later was chaplain of the frigate "Hancock." His warrant, signed by John Hancock, hung in a conspicuous place. Chairs which belonged to the father of Oliver Wendell Holmes, to the father of Benjamin Franklin, and to Thomas Jefferson, attracted attention. A chair which came to this country in the "Anne," in 1623, was exhibited by a direct descendant of the original owner. Thus were presented good examples of typical colonial furniture.

Other household belongings were family treasures loaned by members of the Kidder, Blanchard, Polly, Symmes, Le Bosquet, Porter, and Hall families — names known and honored in Medford from colonial times. Several articles were shown which were considered genuine Mayflower relics. A china nappy which had been handed down to the eldest daughter of each generation of the owner's family and a lamp which is vouched for by the family of Rev. Charles Brooks, historian of Medford, were among the number.

Several mementos of Sarah Bradlee Fulton, the "Chapter Mother" were shown; among them a punch bowl and ladle which were used when General Washington visited her to express his thanks for her services as bearer of despatches when, if discovered, her life would have been the forfeit. Two of her descendants

wore gowns which had been worn by their honored ancestress. Her wedding gown has descended from her eldest daughter to the present owner, who is the eldest daughter of the fourth generation.

The tavern sign of Jonathan Porter, emblazoned with the British coat-of-arms, was considered priceless by several visitors. It hung in Medford square, on the corner of Main street and Riverside avenue. The ancient tavern was removed in 1785 and the present structure erected. Mr. Porter was by some suspected of being in sympathy with the Tories, but, as he was a lieutenant in the militia during the Revolution, this charge was evidently unfounded. The sign has a bullet-hole through it, which it is said to have received from an irate patriot who could not bear the sight of its device.

Experts pronounced the china exhibit very valuable, yet it was mainly made up of bits of family treasures valued by their owners for love's sake. A cake basket of silver wire was brought to the Royall House in 1815 by Madam Ruth Tidd, and was used there as long as she lived. A silver porringer was owned by her father, William L. Dawes. He was a descendant of William Dawes, who rode through Roxbury to alarm the country, April, 1775. Among Revolutionary relics was the kettle in which Mrs. Abigail Brooks, wife of Rev. Edward Brooks, made chocolate for returning minute-men. Descendants of the Russell family loaned pewter plates which had been buried in Menotomy woods to save them from the British, April 19, 1775. Muskets which were once aimed at each other in deadly conflict hung side by side. A relic of colonial wars was the blanket on the high-posted bedstead. It was homespun, and bore the sign of the broad arrow, which is the mark of English government supplies, and the initials C.R. (Canada Reserves).

One of the bedsteads was made in France for Rev. Aaron Warner, the first Trinitarian minister of Medford.

All the beds were made up with homespun sheets, blankets, and coverlids. The "high boys" and "low boys" and quaint bureaus stood in the chambers as they might have done a hundred years ago, and the air of homelikeness made one love to linger there. In the guest chamber stood the cradle of Gov. Joseph Dudley. It was brought from England, and he and his descendants have been rocked in it. In another room was a letter written by him in 1702. Over the mantel in the parlor hung a piece of needlework, the faces of the figures represented painted by Copley. On the opposite wall hung another picture in needlework which was exquisite.

A few of the tiles which were once around the fireplaces in the Royall House, and a fragment of leather hanging, may be guides should restoration of the house be attempted.

The uniform, cocked hat, and pistols of Gov. John Brooks suggested the gallant soldier of the Revolution, while his lancet-case recalled the physician whom his townsmen loved. Among the portraits were those of Governor Brooks, Nathaniel Polly (a Medford soldier in the Revolution), Lucy Dudley, the wife of Dr. Simon Tufts, Andrew Hall, whose home in 1800 was the present 43 High street (the third frame house built in Medford), and Turell Tufts, who died in 1842, son of Dr. Simon Tufts. A print of the Blanchard Tavern was shown. Here the New Hampshire troops were mustered in, and public meetings were held after the meeting-house ceased to be town property. Hezekiah Blanchard was the tavern-keeper in Revolutionary times. He and his son both served in the army. His name is on the roll of minute-men.

A warrant for Isaac Royall, Senior, issued in 1734, a pair of spectacles inscribed "The gift of I. Royall to Simon Tufts, Esq.," and a silver communion plate bequeathed to the "Church of Christ in Medford" were all the exhibits which referred personally to the ancient

owners of the house. A special act of the General Court was necessary before the plate could be accepted by the church in Medford. There were interesting letters from Revolutionary soldiers in camp and in prison, the diary of Deacon Benjamin Willis, a prominent Medford citizen before the Revolution, and a few old love letters, among them one written by Parson Turell. Autograph letters of Samuel Sewall, Thomas Jefferson, Governor Brooks, Dr. Osgood, and other papers of especial interest to students of Medford history, over one hundred in all, made a valuable collection.

From far and near visitors came to see the historic edifice, and one and all were charmed with the artistic arrangement of the house and marvelled that such an effect could be produced in such limited time. There were nearly two thousand articles exhibited, but six days sufficed to put everything in place, and three days after the exhibition closed everything had been safely taken from the house. March 6, 1899, the chapter voted to hold the exhibition, and Mrs. C. H. Loomis, the regent, was made chairman of the committee of arrangements. She divided the chapter, of fifty members, into five sub-committees for special work, and the members were a committee of the whole to solicit loans. The people of Medford responded generously. To the regent the highest praise is due for unremitting effort and close personal attention to detail from the inception of the affair until every loan had been returned to its owner. On Saturdays the doors were open at nine o'clock in the morning for the benefit of school children, and some of the pleasantest remembrances of the exhibition are tours through the house with these bright-eyed, eager little people. The exhibition closed April 29. It was with feelings of real regret that the "Daughters" turned away from the ancient door-stone, but hope is cherished in their hearts that some day the mansion can be refurnished permanently, and remain a monument to the days of old.

Helen T. Wild.

THE WORK OF LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES.

LOCAL historical societies in the United States are numerous and rapidly increasing. They possess in the aggregate large wealth in buildings, libraries, collections, and invested funds. This property is well placed and much more may profitably be given by contributing members and men of wealth to a work which is in the highest degree educative and patriotic. Good citizenship flourishes best in that community which holds in respect its past and knows well the growth of its own institutions. No one who is qualified to hold an opinion doubts that the historical society has a mission. It is equally certain that its functions are not yet fully defined and understood. The work of local and State societies in this field will unfold itself by gradual development, as has that of the historical student and teacher, in accord with the growth of the science of history itself. To every local historical society, therefore, the questions of its proper functions, how it may best relate itself to the broader field of human history, and whether any new ways of usefulness, unrecognized by it hitherto, have opened, are always pertinent for consideration.

Herein lies a real problem. That the work of these societies is appropriately in the local field is an axiom. On the other hand the question arises: How far can the study of history in the local field be wisely carried without reference to the wider life with which the local life is and always has been inseparably associated? There is danger of belittling true history into mere antiquarianism by an excessive attention to the purely local. Work in the closely associated field of genealogy illustrates the same danger. Many ardent investigators of their genealogy devote weeks of patient research to filling in charts with names utterly meaningless to them and to others. To know the sources

and currents of strength and power in the family is a task that does not present itself to them. A dead array of names and dates is the *ultima Thule* of their genealogical ambition. It is as though a man considered his fence built when the holes were dug for the posts.

Vermonters are justly proud of the part played by their troops at Gettysburg. The writer of this article once met among the Vermont hills a youth who could recount in considerable detail the movements, organization, and record of one of the Vermont regiments in that battle, but he did not understand the significance of Gettysburg in the Civil war; he barely knew the nature of the war. He had heard over and over the record of the Vermonters at Gettysburg from one or two veterans who had gone from his town. It had never occurred to him that there was anything else to it. History was a blank to him, except as it concerned his own community, by the limits of which his vision of the world was bounded. But how small from that point of view were the grand deeds of Stannard's heroes! To know Gettysburg that youth needed to know the war; to know the war he must know the long political and constitutional struggle and the social and economic developments that made the war inevitable; behind that he must find the sources of Anglo-American life in the colonies, in England, in Europe. That superb stand against Pickett in the bloody angle was an episode in the history of a great race and a great struggle, but as that young Vermonter saw it the scene dwindled to a mere brutal encounter between armed men. There is no break in historic continuity, and even local historical societies must keep the whole in view. This is not to say that they should undertake studies in general history, but that their work must be directed with constant reference to broader human relationships than those of the community. The community is like a plant whose roots are imbedded in and draw their life from the deep soil out of which comes

the life of a State, a nation, a people. If the dignity of history is to be preserved it must never be regarded in a petty way.

It is easy for the individual, especially if he lacks historical training, or that broad insight which often supplies its place, to fall into this local antiquarianism. One of the important functions of the historical society, in relation to its members, is to lift them out of this habit by that constant comparison of work along different lines with a common object, which inevitably opens new ranges of vision, and tends to prevent the narrowness resulting from concentration of interest upon a single object. But more than this, we must always keep in sight the great movements in which those of the town merge and by which they are interpreted. Localism must not mean isolation, and limitation of field must not be allowed to produce narrowness of view. To a younger writer about to undertake the biography of one of America's Revolutionary statesmen a veteran historical scholar gave this advice: "Don't hurry. Do not settle to real work on this for a year or two. You must read everything of importance on the period of this man's life and for half a century before and afterward. Soak yourself in the period of which he formed a part. Then you can interpret his life."

There is the same difference between real history and history as it is often treated that there is between the preservation of real historic memorials and the collection of worthless relics. The Royall House as it stands to-day ought to be preserved, with restorations where needed, because it is a rare type of the grander old-colonial houses, now fast passing away, and assists more than many volumes could do in reconstructing for us the life of a very interesting and important epoch in New England history. But if the Royall House should give way some day before the march of improvement, the chips and blocks and bricks that the relic hunters will collect with such avidity will have no more value

or interest than any other bricks or sticks in Medford, in spite of which many people will preserve them with care; and it may even be that the Medford Historical Society will, for some reason that none of its members can ever explain, find room for something of the sort on its shelves. We shall do well to get out of the amateurish relic stage as soon as possible. The boy collects pieces of the Charter Oak and the Washington Elm and the House that Jack Built; but when he becomes a man he puts away childish things and learns that the Connecticut charter probably was never put in the Charter Oak, that the greatness of Washington is not fitly illustrated by a misplaced bit of wood, and that Jack's house was no better than his next-door neighbor's.

In a thoughtful paper, read at the 1897 meeting of the American Historical Association, on "The Function of State and Local Historical Societies with respect to Research and Publication," Prof. J. F. Jameson, of Brown University, dealt in his usual clear-cut way with some of the questions considered in this article. A passage may well be quoted. Dr. Jameson is seeking for an explanation of certain shortcomings in the research and publication work of many of our historical societies. He says:

"In the first place, should we not all agree that our older historical societies have often seemed to conceive of their respective fields and duties in too narrow, and even parochial, a sense? The reason for their existence is, of course, local history, and they win their public support, their money, and their members by devoting themselves to local history. But there are some topics of local history which are purely local and nothing else, and there are those which, while no less important to the history of the locality, are also of significance with respect to the larger life of the nation. The historical society which devotes itself to the former when it might be doing something to elucidate the latter fails of the best part of its mission. Is a subject in the history of

the locality more worthy of the society's time and money because nobody outside of the locality can by any possibility be expected to take an interest in it? On the contrary, it is just these subjects which deaden historical societies. If the State or the locality has any importance whatever which should make it worth while to have its history studied it is because it has played some part in the life of the world. This is the thing to work at. *Hoc opus, hic labor.* Every one knows that one of the leading defects of American historical writing has been that the writers knew too little of other history. So it is with local history. Neither men nor societies can hope to deal with it rightly unless their minds are full of American history at large and quick to see the relations of their tasks to that which explains them and gives them meaning. . . . With increase of intercommunication purely local feeling has become less acute. The number of people who care a rush whether the Blue Boar Tavern stood in First street or in Second street, or who can excite themselves over silly questions of local priority in this or that small achievement, has grown considerably smaller and is constantly diminishing. Meanwhile the number of persons who have read a considerable amount of general American history or who take an intelligent interest in it has greatly increased. It is to these people that societies must, in the long run, make their appeal for pecuniary and other support. It is highly probable that by avoiding fussy antiquarianism and looking chiefly at the larger aspects of local history they would accomplish the difficult feat of serving both God and Mammon. Not a few of our historical societies consist of two or three hundred sustaining members, who like to help in keeping up such an institution, and who are not without interest in American history, but who never attend the meetings, which have become the exclusive property of a few fossilized antiquarians. Would not fresh life be brought in if the society were to perceive clearly that its field of

work is, rightly stated, *American history locally exemplified?*"

Thus much for the case as stated by one of our leading historical scholars and teachers, and a practical man withal, who, as may be seen, looks at the question from the business side, as well as from that of sound learning. Provincialism is a thing that the modern spirit in history will not tolerate, and local historical societies must keep clear of it if they would march with the spirit of the age and the ages.

The Medford Historical Society cannot be charged with sinning in these directions to any extent. It is young and it has been conducted through its early organization period with energy, discretion, and breadth of view. But because it is young and has a name to make, these considerations of possible policies are pertinent. It may be said to have passed the experimental stage and to have become an institution with serious work to do. Its members are studying local history, a library is being collected, and a regular publication is closing its second volume. The obvious subjects for research, the apparent opportunities, are becoming exhausted. In finding new ones the wider view should guide. This society has an opportunity to take a place in the front rank of active exemplars of all that is best in historical work. The history of Medford runs with that of Massachusetts. It has been in the movement of the grand old Commonwealth from the beginning. This young society enters a rich field at a time when the full meaning of history is becoming understood. It has no dry-as-dust policy saddled upon it from past generations. In its programs of work, the character of its publications, and the development of its library it may study the best examples and create its own traditions.

The relation of a local historical society to its community should be as to the past that of a teacher and recorder, and as to the present and future that of an

inspiration; for it is characteristic of the new spirit in history that it looks forward as well as backward, and regards the past in its vital relation to the present. The mistake is often made of regarding that which is farthest distant in point of time as of most interest and value. This again is the view of the antiquarian and not of the real historian, who knows no such distinction. The earliest period in the colonial history of America has been much more thoroughly exploited than that equally important half century of development that preceded the Revolution. We do not do justice to our mission if we forget that we are making history now, and that while the first business of the Medford Historical Society is to rescue past records before they are entirely lost, it is also and equally its business to see that ample material is properly preserved for later historians to study without obscurity all the phases of its history now enacting. It seldom does harm for the institution, like the individual, to magnify its office, and the mission of the local historical society will broaden and deepen the longer it is studied in the true spirit of history.

EDWIN A. START.

BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES FROM EARLY RECORDS.

COMPILED BY ELLA S. HINCKLEY.

BIRTHS

Aron and Mofes tufts Sons of Peter tufts and Deberah his wife Born Aprill y^e^. 20^th^ — 1721 —

Mercy Bradshow Dafter of John and Mercy Bradshow was Born December y^e^. 27^th^. — 1721 —

Dorithy Seccomb Daughter of Richard Seccombe and Ann His wife Born Janury 24^th^ 1715

Jonathan Wait Son of Peter waite and abigal his Wife Born March 24^th^. — 1722 —

Mary Thompfon Daughter of Jofeph thompfon and Sary his wife Born July y^e^. 8^th^. — 1722 —

March y^e^ 24^th^ 1722 Elesebath Hall Daughter of John Hall and Elesebath his wife waf Born

Thomas Gratton Son of John Gratton and Sary his Wife Born May y^e^. 8^th^ — 1722 —

Aron Blanchard Son of Aron Blenchard and Sarah his Wife Born May y^e^ 21 — 1722 —

Simon Tufts Son of Thomas Tufts Esq^r^ and Emme his Wife Born March y^e^. 17^th^ 1723 —

Iohn Waters Son of Joſiah Waters and mary his Wife Born Aprill y^e^ 16^th^ 1723 — — —

Andrew Hall Son of Andrew Hall and Abigal his Wife Born octob^r^ y^e^. 6^th^. 1723

Richard Sprague Son of Richard Sprague and Abigall his wife Born Sept^r^. 23=1723

Sufanna Abry Daugter of John Abry and Eleſebath his Wife born octobr y^e^. $\frac{7th}{1722}$

MARIGES

Jonathan Bradshow and Mary Wadſon both of Medford Maryed Aprill y^e^ 17 — 1722 —

Jeams tufts Jun^r^ of Charlstown and lidiah Hhall of Medford Maryed June y^e^ 29 — 1722

William paine Sen^r^. Eleſebath Sweetſer Both of Charlstown maryed y^e^ 6^th^. of November 1722

Samu^ll^. tufts of Medford and Eleſebath Sweetſer of Charlstown Maryed novembe^r^. y^e^ 7^th^ 1722

Andrew Hall and abigall Walker both of Medford Maryed all y^e^ y^e^ abovſd perſons maryed By — Thoma^s^ Tufts Esqr —

Iamimah Hall of Medford and Zacery Auldin of Boſtown Maryed by y^e^ Revn^d^. M^r^ Eben^r^ Turell Ianury y^e^ 14^th^. 1724/5

Nathani^ll^. Lampkin & Dorrithy Manſwell both of Charlstown Married Ianury y^e^ 13 — 1722/3

Iohn Tufts and Eleſebath Sargant both of Charlstown Maried March y^e^ 28^th^ 1723

Pheniaſ Sprague & Rebecah lyonſ both of Malden Maried Aprill y^e^ 9^th^ — 1723

Nathal^l^. Francif & Sary Whitmore both of Medford Married May y^e^ 16 — 1723

Nathan Hayward of Lanckester and Eafter Willis of Charlstown Married Iune y^e^ 20^th^ 1723

Ezra Skiner and Eleſebath Swan both of Norton were Maried Ianuary y^e^ 8^th^ 1724 —

Ionathan Foſhit and Hannah Crouch both of Charlstown were Maried Iune y^e^ 9^th^ 1724 — — —

BIRTHS

Abigal Waite Daugher of Richard Waite and Elefebath his Wife Born Iary y^e 27 — 1723/4 —

Thomas Oaks Son of Thomas Oaks and Abigal his Wife Born Ianury 28 — 1722/3 —

Ionathan Bradshow Son of Ionathan Bradshow and mary his Wife Born Febray y^e 13 — 1723

Iohn Giells Son of Iohn Giells & Susanah his Wife Born Iune y^e 27 = 1721 —

Abigal Daughter of Iohn Gilles and Sufanna His Wife Born auguft y^e: 19 — 1723

Samu^ll. Hall Son of Thomas Hall and Abigall his Wife Born Novem^r 22 — $\frac{}{1723}$

Abigall Tufts Daughter of Peter Tufts and Deberah his Wife Born octob^r $\frac{\text{ye } 6\text{th}}{1723}$

Sarah Hall Daugter of Stephen Hall and Elefebath his Wife Born y^e 14^th— 1724

Elefebath Bradfhow Daugter of Ihon Bradfhow and Marcy his Wife Born october y^e 19 — 1722

Sam^ll. Sprague Son of Bunker Sprague and Martha his Wife Born Setem^r. $\frac{\text{ye } 2\text{d}}{17\,24}$

Phebe Thompfon Daughter Ion^a Thompfon and Abigall his Wife Born Ianuary y^e 5^th 1713/4

Ruth Thompfon Daughter of Ion^a Thompfon And Abigail his wife Born oc^br 30^th

Mary Henfhow Daughter of Iofiah Henfhow and Mary his Wife Born Nov^r. 21 — 1723

Keziah Blanchard Daughter of Jofeph Blanchard and his Wife Born Iuly y^e 3^d.— 1724 —

BIRTHS

Ionathan Thompfon Son of Ionathan tomfon and Abigall Tomfon Born March y^e 2^d 1724^{5}

William Whitmore Son of Iohn Whitmore and Mary his Wife Born Dec^r. y^e 19^th 1724/5

Abigall Hall Daughter of Andrew Hall and Abigall His Wife Born Aprill y^e. 15^th 1725 —

Ierufha Waters Dauter of Iofiah Waters And Mary his Wife Born March y^e. 7^th — 1724/5

Iames Richardfson Son of Iohn Richardfon & Abigall his wife Born Iune y^e 15^th 1725

Simon Son of Samue^ll. Wade and Lediah his Wife Born March y^e 28^th: 1725

Sollomon Tufts Son of Thomas & Emme tufts his wife was Born Ianuary 23^d. 1724/5

Mary Sprague Daughter of Bunker Sprague and Martha His Wife Born Ianuary y^e: 12^th. 1725 6
Iohn Tufts Son of Iohn Tufts and Elefebath his Wife Born Decemb^r. y^e 13^th 1723
Nathan Bradfhow Son of Iohn Bradfhow and Marcy his Wife Born Ianuar^y — y^e 4^th 1724
Cotton Bradfhow Son of Iohn Bradfhaw and Marcy his Wife Born Dec^r. y^e 14^th 1725
Samuell Turner Son of Samu^ll. Turner and Prufilla his Wife born octo^r — y^e 17^th 1729 —
Elefebath Hall Daughter of Stephen Hall Elefebeth his Born Born Dec^r. 19: 1725

DEATHS

Iohn Tufts Son of Iohn Tufts Dyed Auguft y^e $\frac{16}{17\ 25}$
Attwood Wife of Ollever Attwood Dyed October The Thirtyeth — 1725
Deacon Thomas Willis Sen^r Dyed Augoft 14 1725
Iohn Polly Son of Samu^ll and Elefebath Polly Dyed March y^e 15= Day 1721 —
Sufanna Polly Daugter of Samu^ll and Elefebath Poly Dyed Aprill y^e 16^th Day 1721 —
Sufannah Hall Daughter of Iohn Hall and Elefebath his wife Born May y^e 9^th 1724

MARRIAGES

Ebenezer Necalls of Reading and Sufanna Monroe of Lexingingtown were Married Iune y^e 10^th 1724
Benjamin Dany of Cambrige & Anna Francif of Medford were Married Iuly 23^d — 1724
Dudly Bradftreet of boftown and Sary peirce of Charlstown Were Maried Auguft y^e 18^th 1724
Iohn May and Sary Garish both of Charlstown were Married octob^r. 23^d — 1724
Ebenezer Flag and Hannah Knight both of Woborn Were Married Iune y^e 2^d — 1725 —
Sollomon Waymon and Mary peirce Both of Woborn were Married Iune y^e 9^th 1725 —
Ionathan Nutting of Medford and Hannah Billings of Cambrige Were Married Iune y^e 15^th 1725
Ionathan Farmfworth and Mary burt both of Groton were Married Iune y^e 30^th 1725
Ionathan Weber and Mary Whitmore both of Medford were maried auguft y^e 19 — 1725

MARIAGES 1725

Partrick Brown and Ruth Babrick Both of boftown were Married auguft 20th 1725 — — —

Samull Bariat of Littletown and lediah hardy of Bradford were Married auguft 24 — 1725

William Lowes and Mary Grover of Charlstown were Married October ye 5th 1725

Nathanill Larrance and Ann Seccomber both of Medford were Married Novr. ye 13th 1725 — —

NECROLOGY.

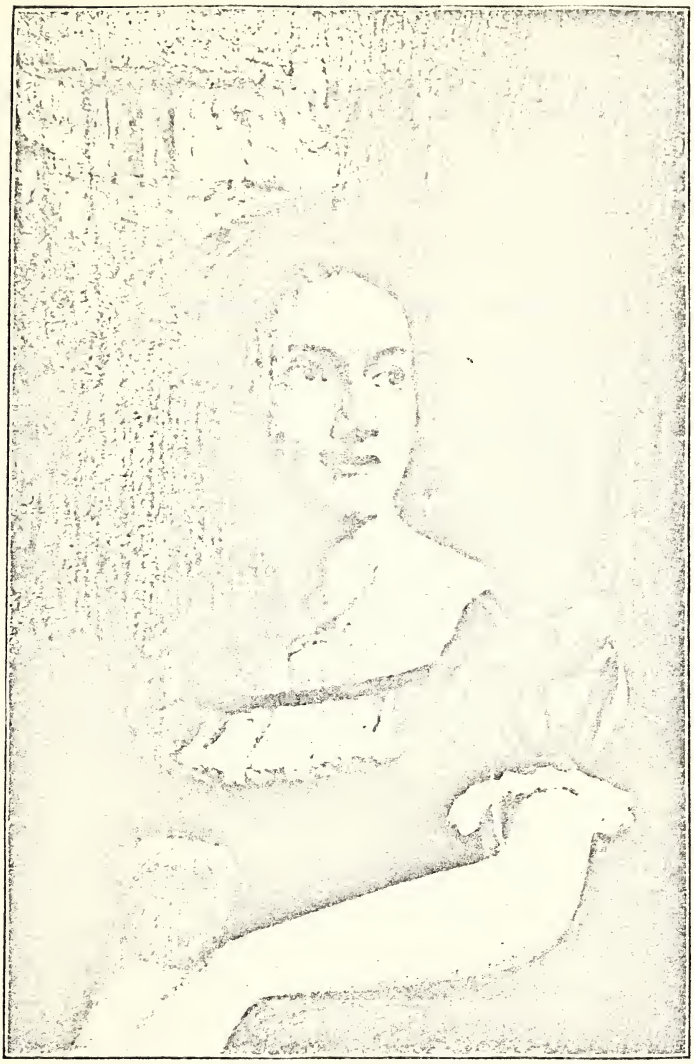
James Bean, a charter member of the Medford Historical Society, died at his home in Medford June 19. Mr. Bean was born in England, but came to this country at an early age and settled in Medford. He identified himself with the various interests of his adopted home and held many important positions in the administration of municipal affairs. He was of a genial disposition and kindly nature, and his familiar figure and cheerful face will be greatly missed by our citizens.

Charles H. Swan, a charter member of the Medford Historical Society, died at his home in Roxbury April 17. Mr. Swan was well known in engineering circles, and was engaged in the construction of many important water and sewerage works. He was interested in the work of the Historical Society, his family name being connected with the earlier history of Medford, and the picture of the Swan House belonging to the Society was presented to it by him.

NEW MEMBERS.

(Number previously reported, 246.)

Albree, John, Jr.
Baxter, Charles S.
Bedell, David,
Downs, Charles S.
Gleason, Charles B.
Hayes, Mrs. C. B.
Stone, Geo. W.
Tucker, Charles D.



LYDIA MARIA CHILD

AT THE AGE OF 20.

Copied from an oil painting in the possession of the Medford Historical Society.

The Medford Historical Register.

Vol. II. OCTOBER, 1899. No. 4.

SOME UNPUBLISHED SCHOOL REPORTS.

[In November, 1845, the town passed a vote directing the heads of the several departments to make their annual reports to the auditing committee for publication with that of the auditor. In accordance with this vote the school committee made its first report, February 1, 1847, for the year 1846–47. In the statement of the selectmen, February 10, 1846, they say that "The school committee were unable to make a full report previous to the examination of the schools for the present quarter." A report was, however, issued in April, 1846. There were others printed in 1843 and 1835, but none of them have as yet been found. Some attic probably contains copies, and all interested in the history of the town are earnestly requested to make search for these missing documents. Beginning with March, 1836, there are on file in the office of the city clerk several written reports that have never been printed, and that these may not disappear entirely, it has seemed best to offer the earliest of them for publication in the *Register*. — C. H. M.

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE, MARCH, 1836.

THE committee, in discharge of their duties, have held regular monthly meetings, and others when necessary to provide for the welfare of the Schools. They have had public examinations of the whole every quarter; have often visited them informally at other times; and have done what they could, in every way, to carry into effect the provisions of the report of a special committee adopted by the Town April 6, 1835. And they beg leave to express their high gratification at the present condition of the schools, and the happy results which already appear from the working of the new System.

The Board recommend the Primary Schools to your particular attention. They are deeply impressed with the importance of thorough elementary instruction in early childhood. Wherever this has been neglected and children have gone into the large, Master's Schools, but ill grounded in the rudiments of education, they have been under great disadvantages which have seldom or never been overcome in after life. Great care therefore is necessary in selecting competent and faithful teachers for the Primary Schools, where the foundation of all good learning is laid and habits of study commonly determined. In order to accomplish these objects the better, the Committee recommend that these Schools should in future be kept nine months in the year instead of six. While they express their satisfaction with the good they have done the past year, they are of opinion that a longer duration would make them proportionately more useful.

The two Grammar Schools appear, at least, as well as in any previous year, in many respects better, although nearly forty of the best scholars have been removed from them to the High School. The very encouraging condition of these Schools, notwithstanding the above temporary disadvantage, may be attributed in a great measure to the following causes.

1. We have had able teachers who were deeply interested in the improvement of the schools under their care, and the pupils themselves have been undoubtedly excited to greater diligence by the hope of qualifying themselves for the higher School.

2. The scholars being more nearly on an equality in age and advancement than they formerly were, it is easier to maintain good order among them by applying methods of government adapted to their years and standing.

3. The limited number of their Studies allows the Masters more time to give them thorough instruction;

for they can be formed into fewer and larger classes and taught with more ease and success than they could be, if the more advanced pupils, pursuing different branches of education, were gathered into the same Schools. The advantage arising from division of labor is well known to all who have any experience in the work of instruction. Accordingly we find that in many towns large enough to afford the expense, separate Schools are established for writing and arithmetic only.

The Board are of opinion that the experiment of a High School has so far been as successful as could have been reasonably expected, notwithstanding the disadvantage of a change in Instructors, occasioned by the appointment of the first Master to an office in the University. It will be considered that most of the Scholars in this school are but little more than twelve years of age, and have been in it too short a time to have advanced to the higher studies, nevertheless its progress has been so considerable and its present condition and habits are so satisfactory, as to justify the belief that it will at no distant period, fulfil the most sanguine expectations of its friends.

The number of Scholars in all the different schools is as follows:

Primary Schools.		The ages of the scholars are
East	73	in the Primary Schools, from 4 to 8
South	54	
West	62	" " Grammar " " 8 to 12
Symmes neighborhood	20	" " High " " 12 upwards
Grammar Schools.		
East	65	
Centre	62	
High School	55	
Total	431	

The Board are happy to observe that the government of the Schools is strict, though it appears to be main-

tained, by the carefulness of the Instructors, with little or no severity. During the year but two cases of discipline occurred which required the intervention of the Committee. In one instance the refractory scholar, after proper admonition, submitted to authority and returned to his duty. The other offender, yet remaining self-willed and obstinate, is excluded from his school as a solemn warning to others of the miserable consequences of an undutiful and disobedient spirit. All which is respectfully submitted.

School Committee.

G. James,
M. James,
C. Stetson,
H. A. Smith,
John C. Magoun,
John P. Clisby,
James Wellington.

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MADE MARCH 8TH 1838.

Your Committee in the discharge of their duty beg leave to present the following,

Report.

The proper training of the young, should be, and no doubt is, a subject that lies near the heart of every reflecting parent & guardian of youth in the land. — and especialy near, the heart of every philanthropist and Christian. The enquiry then at once forces itself upon the mind — what should that training be? — what does common sense — experience, & scripture, teach upon that subject as applicable to our public schools. — We answer,

1. It teaches first a wholesome discipline — By which we mean a prompt — uniform and cordial obedience to

all the commands & wishes of the teacher. — Failing to recieve this you fail of every thing. — If this object can be attained by moral suasion — by an appeal not to fear, — but to the nobler faculties of the *mind*, and of the *soul* — By presenting to the mind of the child the *right* and the *wrong* in in the case — And inducing him to secure the happiness which springs from the one — and escape the misery consequent upon the other it is well. But *failing* here — and as a last resort, recours must be had to the *rod*. — For lips touched by inspiration have said — that sparing it, you spoil the child. On this subject however your Com are enabled with satisfaction to say, that our schools are constantly yielding to this principle of wholesome discipline. — And that the cases where corporeal punishment has been resorted to — are decreasing in the full ratio of that — submission

2. In the second place we notice *uniform* & *prompt attendance* as highly important to the success of our schools. —

The irregular scholar is not only retarded in his own progress (beyond his actual loss of time) But stands in the way of others — Breaking up the classes — Deranging the order of the school — Increasing the labours of the teacher — And thus curtailing the opportunities of others — and doing an injury to every other member of the School.

In this particular however there has during the past year, been an evident improvement. — And we recommend to every parent & guardian of youth — not to loose sight of this subject, untill — the evil is fully remedied.

3. we next call your attention to the importance of *persevering application* — No child should be allowed to hold a book in his hand, and not us it — Half lounge, & half study half work & half play, will never make a good scholar, or an exemplary man. Let parents — Teachers — Friends of education — All — Impress upon the minds of youth this truth.

4. we speak with utmost confidence of the condition & prospects of the three masters schools — and only recommend to pursue the same general course, — with such alterations & improvements as experience & observation may suggest. — We notice with pleasure the perfect *harmony*, & *good feeling*, that exists between the *teachers* of these schools, — and the salutary influence that their laudable emulation is exerting on the whole.

Each, with his peculiar excellencies — willing to instruct and be instructed — and thus like a three fold chord — binding together in closer, and more delightful union the dearest interests of the rising — generation.

5 In the western primary school there is nothing worthy of note, beyond the ordinary progress of a town school.

6. The primary school in the eastern district has made but little progress the past year. — But we attribute it not to the want of attention, or *tact*, on the part of the teacher — But to the great number of scholars and the straightness of the house. The speedy completion of the new schoolhouse (should the necesary funds be appropriated) will furnish ample accomodation for all the scholars in that part of the town — And relieve your Com from the painful necessity of sending a number of scholars from this school, to the one south of the river.

7. The south primary has been conducted very much to the satisfaction of your Com — and consequently to the credit of the teacher. And now with the addition of an assistant in the east primary school (if found necesary) your Com recommend that these Schools pursue the same general plan as heretofore. That they may be commenced in the first of April, and continue eleven months. And that the Com be empowerd to limit the age of admission into them to five years, instead of four — if in their judgment it would contribute to the general good.

8. It is very manifest to your Com that our system of schools is gaining favour with the people. Children are flowing in from Academies private schools and the streets. Thus showing the estimation in which our schools are held by all classes of the community. And now, your Com are constrained to ask an appropriation of 2700 $ at *least*, in order to carry out succesfully the present system of public education.

9. Of the 2500$ raised last year, 100$ was expended for wood & Coal, and 1852$ a year — or 35$ and 61 cents a week, to pay the three male teachers, which sum averaged on 239 scholars the number sent to these schools is 14. cents 9. mills a week to each scholar. — The remaining 552$ divided by 48 the number of weeks the primary schools were kept gives $11.50 Cents a week to pay the teachers — which averaged on 217 scholars the number sent — is 5 Cents 5 mills a week to each.

10. In the close, your Com ask your particular attention to some of the advantages of this system of public education. 1^{t}. It unites all classes of society in one common interest dear to their hearts, Viz. The education of their children. — 2^{d}. It excites in these children a thirst for knowledge — A laudible ambition to excell. 3^{d}. It secures to them in future life, that union of feeling — and harmony of action — which naturaly springs out from early school associations, and attachments. And finaly, it furnishes to every child (be he rich or poor) the requisite knowledge, to enable him to protect his property — maintain his rights. Defend his liberties, and repell the encroachment of anarchy or despotism, — *scourges* which ever have their origin in *ignorance* of the people.

All which is respectfully submitted
By order of the School Committee
Medford March 5th. 1838

GALEN JAMES *Chairman*

REPORT OF SCHOOL COM^EE. MADE TO THE TOWN APR^L. 1ST 1839.

Your Committee in the discharge of their duty beg leave respectfuly to

Report.

That after careful examination of all our public schools, we are happy to state that our system of schools, which, three years ago was a mere matter of theory, and doubtful experiment, is now in the full tide of successful operation, — Improving not the *minds* only — but the morals — the habits — the manners — and the hearts even, of all the rising generation who choose to avail themselves of their benefits. It is a *fact* well attested by your Com — the teachers and others, That cases of *lying*, so common to children especialy when *uninstructed*, have been few, & far between. — That *Vulgar* & *obscene* expressions are of rare occurence in and about our schools. And *profanity* that wicked & debasing crime which a few years ago stalked abroad with unblushing front, has mostly not to say entirely shrunk from the light, that *mental* & *moral* cultivation is sheding around our public schools. And the few *exceptions* which your Com have been called to notice are from that class of *large boys* who from necessity in some cases — but from choice in most, have attended school but a small portion of their time. By way of illustration we mention with regret the cases of two large boys who for wilful disrespect to the Teacher — and disobedience of the rules of the school, have been — The *one*, *suspended* for two days — The other expelled until he should be willing to change entirely his course. — and yield implicitly to the rules & dicipline of the school. These boys have not returned: Nor is it desirable they should on any other terms — than those of thorough reformation. Much as we re-

gret to see even *one* youth growing up in ignorance — wilfulness — & Sloth, (Those — fruitful sources of misery & crime:) we heartily acquiesce in that great and truly republican principal of Law — That the rights & privileges of the many should never be sacrificed to the interest or caprice of the few. We subjoin the testimony of the schools in regard to these cases.

Questions by your Com. Were Samuel & Joseph kind & peaceable companions? *No Sir.* said every child in the school. Did they obey the rules of the school? *No Sir*— Did your teacher do right to send them away? *Yes Sir.* Would you like to have them return? *No Sir.*

It is said that children & fools always speak the truth: and your Com believe it.

In this connection we mention a case that ocured last April. at the close of the school year When three or four large boys, about to leave the school committed depredations on the school house, and on private property in it, to the amount of 10, to 15 dollars. Your Com held a court of enquiry on the cases — called in witnesses — established the facts — Assessed the damage on the parents ÷ who, (most of them) promptly responded to the call, and the money was paid over to the Town Treasurer. Nor does the blame restaltoget her on *children*, for *parents too:* — honestly it may be — but injudiciously in the opinion of your Com, — take their children from the school for 3, -6, or even 12 months at a time. — And after they have lost their ardour for study — Contracted idle habits — and enlisted their thoughts & affections in other things they are turned back again upon the schools only to mar their beauty, and destroy the *order harmony* & *good feeling* that would otherwise prevail in them.

[In view of the facts your Com recommend that hereafter no scholar shall be received or retained in our public schools over sixteen years of age: Except by

special permit from the Com, in extraordinary cases, — and for very strong reasons.] [1]

The Primary school in the western district taught by Miss Abbot has made fine proficiency during the past year. very much to the satisfaction of your Com. and very creditable to the Teacher & Scholars.

The Primary South of the river has been interrupted by the sickness of the teacher Miss Richardson whose place for a time wass supplied by Miss Gardner The school however appears to be in fine order and progressing well. One family in this district are in the habit of sending their children *late to school.* a practice very much to be regretted.

The east Primary taught by Miss Mansfield was so large that it was found necesary to employ an assistant — And Miss Graves has divided her labours between that and the Grammar school kept in the same house. This school very backward the last year. — and not fully instructed until an assistant was employed — is now progressing very well. The deservedly popular characters of Mr. Tweed & Mr. Magoun as Teachers, has secured for them in neighboring towns a higher reward for their services than your appropriation (however liberal) would allow your Com to give. We notice with satisfaction that Mr. Foster and Mr. Baxter, their successors in office are treading hard upon their footsteps — And as a consequence of the late examination of their schools. Your Com are filled with high hopes in regard to the future prosperity of these schools, under *their* well directed and perservering labours. — *Last*, not *least* we come to speak of the High School — long and successfuly taught by Mr Forbes. ranking probably with the first Academies in the Com Wealth. The pride & hope of its friends. where are developed not the powers and faculties of the mind only but the better feelings of the heart. A community governed by

[1] The bracketed paragraph is crossed in the manuscript, the second thought evidently being to omit it.

virtuous principles & kindly feelings — where *profane vulgar & obscene* language is discarded, and selfishness — pride — anger — wrath — malice — hatred — revenge, and all the baser passions are by law shut out, and forbearance — meekness — patience — brotherly kindness & love are the acknowledged principles of action.

A little Republic prescribing its own rules — enacting its own laws — judging its own causes — and punishing its own offenders, — The *Teacher*, a mere executive officer to enforce the decisions of the majority against the lawless & disobedient of this self-governed & happy community. Such, *should be* the high school — to such a condition it is rapidly approaching — and to Teacher & pupils we award our unqualified praise.

Statistics.

	Whole No.	Aver. Attend.	Absences.
West Primary School	24	21	1 out of 8
South Primary School	66	58	1 out of 8
East Primary	103	80	1 out of 5
	193	159	

193 Scholars averaged on 650$ the Amt paid the four primary Teachers is $3.37 Cts a year to each Schor
or 6½ Cents a week.

	Whole No.	Aver.	Absences.
West Grammar	78	60	1 out of 5⅓
East Grammar	86	70	1 out of 5⅓
High School	57	48	1 out of 6⅓
	221	178	

221 Scholars averaged on 1850$ the Amt pd the 3 Male teachers is $8.37 a year to each Scholar
or .16 Cts 1 mill a week

414 The whole No under instruction, averaged on
2812$ The whole Amt paid for support of Schools is
$6.79 Cts 2 mills a year to each
or .13 Cts per week.

School houses

The Six school rooms now in use are in very good condition, well supplied with heat & light, and rendering the Scholars in them very comfortable. But the new house in the easter[n] district (in particular) is almost perfect — a model school house, well worthy the notice of Towns & Committees about to build: — And well worth the money that it Cost. The *furnace* placed in it, fully answers the expectation of your Com, heating sufficiently three rooms, two of of which are very large, and at the same time consumes very little coal, and being perfectly safe.

Notice

Your Com state for the information of the Town (and in order to avoid unhappy collissions between parents & Teachers,) That Your Com or their successors in office will meet in the Committee room on the first Tuesday evening of each month to hear and act on Complaints or requests of Parents Teachers or others relating to any subject connected with the public schools. But the practice of going to the school room (on any pretence) to *quarrel with* or *scold* the Teacher, is one which your Com exceedingly regret. and which the town no doubt, will heartily disapprove. In the close, your Com recommend to continue the schools on the present plan the coming year, to do which an appropriation will be needed of at least the amount expended the last year as by your printed statement. To some persons the Amount asked for, say 28 or 2900 dollars may even seem extravagant, especially when our Town

is 16 or 17000, dollars in debt and our annual expenditures verry large.

— Yet however *loudly* & *justly* retrenchment may be called for — and wherever it may begin — Your Com entreat that it may stop ere it reaches the public schools. — For who that has visited our schools: That regards the dearest interests of the rising generation: — That views the poor as possessing equal talents, and entitled to equal honours & benefits with the rich: Who that has weighed the advantages of educating *together* all classes of the community, Thus, elevating the vulgar, & the rude, to a proper selfrespect that will lead them to lay aside their rude habits, and vulgar expressions.

Thus too: — Subduing the family pride, and haughty spirit of the children of the rich, when they find powerful competitors (for the highest honours of the school) from the poorest & most obscure families in the town. Who: your Com. ask that entertain these views, will withhold the necesary funds to carry out the system: or, graduate the benefits of public instruction by dollars & Cents.

Respectfully submitted
By order of the School Committee
GALEN JAMES *Chairman*
Medford March 4th. 1839.

"MARIA DEL OCCIDENTE."

[A paper read before the Medford Historical Society, Nov. 21, 1898, by Miss Caroline E. Swift.]

BUT little is known of the early life of "Maria del Occidente." She was a daughter of William and Eleanor (Cutter) Gowen,[1] and was born in Medford in 1794. Her father was a man of cultivated tastes; he had many literary and professional friends, and held various public offices in Medford. He was a goldsmith by profession, and seems to have been in reduced circumstances the last years of his life. The family moved to Boston while Maria was an infant. Her father died when she was fourteen, and at the age of sixteen she became the second wife of John Brooks, a merchant tailor of Boston, who had previously married Lucretia Gowen, an older sister, and had educated Maria. The marriage took place August 26, 1810, about three years after the death of his first wife. Two children were born to them: Edgar, Nov. 25, 1811, and Horace, Aug. 12, 1813. Mr. Brooks met with reverses in business, and at his death, in 1823, left his young wife of twenty-nine and his children almost penniless.

The year of her husband's death she removed to Cuba, making her home with her brother, William Cutter Gowen. By his death, a few years later, she came into possession of considerable property, and was able to devote herself to literary pursuits and to travel.

She passed the years 1826–7–8 and 9 mainly in Cuba. In 1829 she was in Hanover, N.H., interested in fitting her son Horace for Dartmouth. In a letter to

[1] Her father, William Gowen, was a son of Hammond and Mary (Crosswell) Gowen, of Charlestown, and a grandson of Capt. Joseph and Elizabeth (Ford) Gowen, of Charlestown.

Her mother, Eleanor (Cutter) Gowen, was a lineal descendant of Richard Cutter, who with his mother, widow Elizabeth Cutter, was one of the early settlers of Cambridge.

Mrs. Gustafson, in answer to inquiries concerning his mother,[1] he writes: "My mother's special characteristic was individuality. She generally succeeded in her endeavors. For instance, she applied to have me sent to West Point, and sent me to Washington, in 1829, with letters, etc. The appointment was promised, but by some influence was overruled. She then took me to Hanover, N.H., with a view to my entering Dartmouth College. In the meantime she went with her brother Hammond, of Quebec, to Europe, 1830, where she visited Southey, and by his advice got out a London edition of 'Zophiel.' She was introduced to Lafayette, who was so pleased with her that he asked if he could be of any service to her. 'Yes,' said she, 'you can get my son into West Point.' Upon this Lafayette wrote to Bernard, our then chief engineer, and the appointment of a cadet came to me."

Horace entered West Point in 1831, and graduated in 1835.

Mrs. Brooks lived with him at West Point, when he was Lieutenant Brooks, from 1836 to 1839. In 1840 she was with him at Fort Hamilton, N.Y.

She sailed for Cuba, the last time, in December, 1843.

She died at Matanzas, Cuba, Nov. 11, 1845, and was buried at Limonal, Horace says, "by the side of my two brothers." It is probable that one of these was a half-brother, son of her sister, Lucretia.

Mrs. Brooks' son Edgar became a planter in Cuba, and died during the life of his mother. (See her Ode.)

Horace, after going through "the Mexican War, the Kansas War, and the Rebellion," retired from active service in 1877, having reached the age limit. He was brevetted Major and Lieutenant-Colonel for his services in the Mexican War. He died in 1894.

Mrs. Brooks' first publication was made during the life

[1] "Maria Gowen Brooks," by Zadel Barnes Gustafson.—*Harper's Monthly, January, 1879.*

of her husband, in 1820. In 1825 the first canto of "Zophiel" was published. In 1826–7–8 and 9 she worked at intervals on "Zophiel." The whole poem was published in 1833–4. In 1843 "Idomen" appeared. Mrs. Brooks' baptismal name was not Maria, but Abigail. In 1819 the General Court allowed her to take the name of Mary Abigail Brooks, by which name she was baptized at King's Chapel, Boston, July 31, 1819. With the publication of "Zophiel," in 1833, she assumed the *nom de plume* of "Maria del Occidente," and signed her prefaces "Maria Gowen Brooks." The romantic temperament indicated by her change of name and *nom de plume* finds corroboration in letters of contemporaries concerning her.

Her niece, Mrs. Ellen Parker, of Boston, writes: "In all my life I never passed more than a few months in the society of my aunt, Mrs. Brooks; but to my girlish vision she always appeared a being of the most romantic loveliness and grace. She always dressed in white or gray, wearing transparent sleeves, through which her beautiful arms were seen, and her hands were almost always covered with white kid gloves. She seemed to reverence her own personal charms, and felt it a duty to preserve her own sweetness. When past the meridian of life, her hair and teeth were as beautiful as those of a young girl. I should say that a keen sense of truth and justice, and the most delicate perceptions, and actual worship of beauty, were the predominant traits of her character."

As residents of Medford, the lapse of years seems to be bridged, and we join hands in a nearer and more personal introduction to Mrs. Brooks, through a letter from Miss Lucy Osgood. She writes: "I have a dim recollection of a lady walking out at odd hours, and dressed in white at odd seasons, and of being told she was Mrs. Brooks, of the Gowen family, a poetess. She and her family soon disappeared, and I afterward found, chiefly through a long, respectful article in one of the

English reviews, that we had a flower of genius among us, and in our stupidity knew it not."

Miss Eunice Hall also describes her as "a very handsome lady of winning manners, purest blonde complexion, blue eyes, abundant pale golden hair, who wrote poetry and sang very sweetly."

And her son, Capt. Horace Brooks, writes: "Whatever charm there may be in 'Zophiel,' and whatever talent it may portray, much, undoubtedly is due to the miniature temple[1] where the poem was imagined, and its verse constructed, by a nature as passionate as the name of the flower would indicate, which she always wore in her hair, — the only simple adornment of naturally thick and beautiful tresses. A lady of position recently visited this fort, and spoke to me of recollecting my mother's peculiarity of dressing always in white, even to white silk stockings and slippers."

Captain Brooks also pays a tribute to his mother's scholarship, especially rare in a woman at that time:

"My mother was quite a linguist. She read and wrote fluently in French, Spanish, and Italian; she also sang many songs in these tongues. She was a hard student and a woman of much research, and very particular to obtain her authority from the original; and often attempted, with the assistance of some friend, the translation of obscure languages. I remember how she kept by her a Persian grammar, and often referred to it. She was also quite an artist, and several pieces painted by her in water-colors were hanging up about her rooms.

"She was a constant attendant at church, and always carried with her an English edition of the services of the Church; but she detested all cant and hypocrisy. She was very particular about her own language, disliked all interpolations, and always referred to Johnson

[1] The Greek temple of limestone, with four white Doric columns, built for her by her brother, William Cutter Gowen, at the San Patricio coffee estate at Limonal.

and Walker. It was delightful to hear her converse. Her knowledge of present and past events, and of the prominent characters of history, was astonishing. She would tell anecdotes of persons so varied and interesting that her quiet and unassuming conversation was sought and listened to by many distinguished persons. I remember of her travelling with her brothers several miles in order to see an Indian chief, and get the precise accent and signification of an Indian word."

That she had a remarkable memory and a natural aptitude for knowledge, we learn also from Griswold,[1] her sympathetic friend and admirer.

Her notes on "Zophiel" mark her as a student of wide and accurate information, capable of thought and research quite unusual for a woman of her time.

On "Zophiel; or, The Bride of Seven," Mrs. Brooks' fame as a poetess rests. Southey,[2] after quoting from this poem, adds: "So sings Maria del Occidente, the most impassioned and most imaginative of poetesses."

"Zophiel" is an Oriental epic. Mrs. Brooks finds the suggestion for her plot in the "Apocrypha." Sara, a beautiful maiden, suffers persecution because the seven husbands to whom she was successively married were mysteriously killed on the wedding-night by the wicked spirit Asmodeus. Finally the unhappy Sara prays for death, or, if she must live, she begs some pity may be shown her. In answer to this prayer the angel Raphael brings Tobias to the house of Raguel, Sara's father. Tobias, nothing daunted by the sad fate of the seven who preceded him, becomes the eighth aspirant to Sara's hand, and begs for an immediate marriage. Since Tobias is the one man foreordained and predestinated to be Sara's mate, the spell of the wicked Asmodeus is overcome, and the marriage safely and happily consummated. On this ancient myth Mrs. Brooks enlarges in her poem "Zophiel."

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[1] Encyclopædia of American Literature.
[2] "The Doctor," Chapter 54.

The first canto gives somewhat of an outline of the whole poem, and introduces Egla, the bride of seven. Egla is reclining in a grove when her mother, Sephora, approaches her and begs her to choose a husband before her youth and beauty fade. Egla confesses to her mother that in a vision an old man had appeared to her and assured her that a bridegroom would one day come to her from the Euphrates. He emphasized his prophecy by revealing himself just before vanishing in the shape of the angel Raphael.

Sephora, however, discredits Egla's vision, and begs her not to waste her charms on a "thought-love."

Egla yields a sad obedience to her mother's wishes, and Meles is named for her husband. "The Mede I'll wed," says Egla, "but yet, why will these tears gush forth thus — in thy presence, too?" Sephora held her to her heart while grief had its way; then kissing her blue eyes, left her to slumber through the fervid noon.

While Egla was thus reclining in her bower —

> "It chanced that day, lured by the verdure, came
> Zophiel, a spirit sometime ill, but, ere
> He fell, a heavenly angel.
> And now he wanders on from glade to glade
> To where more precious shrubs diffuse their balms;
> And gliding through the thickly-woven shade,
> Where the soft captive lay in all her charms,
> He caught a glimpse. The colors in her face,
> Her bare, white arms, her lips, her shining hair,
> Burst on his view. He would have flown the place,
> Fearing some faithful angel rested there,
> Who'd see him, reft of glory, lost to bliss,
> Wandering, and miserably panting, fain
> To glean a joy e'en from a place like this;
> The thought of what he once had been was pain
> Ineffable. But what assailed the ear?
> A sigh? Surprised, another glance he took;
> Then doubting, fearing, softly coming near,
> He ventured to her side, and dared to look,
> Whispering, 'Yes, 'tis of earth; so new-found life
> Refreshing, looked sweet Eve, with purpose fell,
> When first Sin's sovereign gazed on her."

Zophiel approaches and bends over the maid; he tries to whisper in her ear, but "a higher power that loved her, and would keep her innocent, repelled his evil touch. He follows her, however, to the bridal-chamber, where, sad and reluctant, she awaits the coming of Meles. He whispers words of love to her, decks her with precious jewels, paints Meles as unworthy of her love, and strives by all subtle art to win her.

> "As the little reptile in some lonely grove,
> With fixed bright eye, of fascinating flames,
> Lures on by slow degrees the plaining dove,
> So nearer, nearer still, the bride and spirit came.
> Success seemed his; but secret, in the height
> Of exultation, as he braved the power
> Which baffled him at morn, a subtle light
> Shot from his eye, with guilt and treachery fraught.
> The spell was broke; and doubts and terrors prest
> Her sore. While Zophiel! 'Meles' step I hear!—
> He's a betrayer! Wilt receive him still?'
> She said in accents faint but firm, 'I will.'"

Meles enters: "He stopt; a groan was heard; he gasped and fell, low by the couch of her who widowed lay."

Meles was a favorite of Sardius, the young king of Media. Egla, with her parents, is bidden to his court to answer for the murder of Meles. Here, though treated with kindness, she is kept under close surveillance. Ere long the king falls in love with her. But Idaspes, the chief councillor, fears lest in winning Egla he suffers the mysterious fate of Meles; and so advises: "And, ere this dangerous beauty be thy bride, let him who loves thee best come forth and prove the peril first." One brave warrior after another sues for the hand of Egla, only to find death, as did Meles, on the bridal eve. The last of the suitors is the beautiful youth, Altheëtor, the favorite of the court and of the king. His death resulted in the banishment of Egla.

So, "Dejected Egla went with all her house. She seeks her own acacia grove."

In the third canto we travel with Zophiel to the Palace of the Gnomes, there to seek the powerful elixir, a drop of which will give to Egla eternal life. With this precious drop enclosed in a crystal spar, he sets out with his guide, Phræion, to return from the sea-deeps to the earth's surface. They encounter a most violent submarine storm; the potent crystal drop which was to perpetuate the youth and beauty of Egla is lost, and Zophiel's daring quest is of no avail.

Canto fifth tells us of the hapless Zameïa, whom Meles had wooed and won, and then heartlessly deserted. Zameïa leaves her home to seek her faithless lover, and learns of his mysterious death as the bridegroom of Egla.

In the sixth and last canto we again find Egla in her acacia grove, and here in the solitude of the soft twilight, longing for the presence of Zophiel, she sings that song which Southey quotes with such delight in "The Doctor," claiming that "it is not only equal but superior to Sappho's famous 'Ode to Aphrodite.'"

"Day in melting purple dying,
Blossoms all around me sighing,
Fragrance from the lilies straying,
Zephyr with my ringlets playing,
Ye but waken my distress!
I am sick of loneliness.

"Thou to whom I love to hearken,
Come ere night around me darken,
Though thy softness but deceive me,
Say thou'rt true, and I'll believe thee.
Veil, if ill, thy soul's intent:
Let me think it innocent!

"Save thy toiling, spare thy treasure:
All I ask is friendship's pleasure:
Let the shining ore lie darkling;
Bring no gem in lustre sparkling;

Gifts and gold are nought to me;
I would only look on thee;

"Tell to thee, the high-wrought feeling,
Ecstasy but in revealing;
Paint to thee the deep sensation,
Rapture in participation,
Yet but torture, if comprest
In a lone unfriended breast.

"Absent still? Ah, come and bless me!
Let these eyes again caress thee.
Once, in caution, I could fly thee,
Now I nothing could deny thee.
In a look if death there be,
Come, and I will gaze on thee!"

Zophiel, just returned from his subterranean search, approaches Egla as the song is concluded and, with rapture, he hears her breathe his own name. "The joy of a whole mortal life he felt in that one moment." He was about to make his presence known when the half-crazed Zameïa rushes in and accuses Egla of the murder of her lover, Meles. Zameïa falls dead, in the attempt to kill Egla.

The long-suffering Egla, weary at last of the repeated horrors of which she is the innocent cause, prepares to take her own life.

"Alas for Egla! Now her hands intwine
The guilty knot: she springs! 'Hold, hold! thy life,
Maiden, is not thine own but God's and mine!'
'Twas Helon's voice."

Helon, Egla's predestined bridegroom, is brought in at this opportune moment by the angel Raphael, and while the unhappy Zophiel is held in combat with "the dark spirit of the storm," Helon and Egla plight a solemn troth before the Almighty — and Egla, freed from the unholy influence of Zophiel, prays Heaven

to spare Helon to her, since she "ne'er can live other than his idolatress."

Helon is the seventh bridegroom, and with this plighting of his troth to Egla the poem ends.

Although "Zophiel" has remained almost wholly unknown to the reading public, it did not fail of recognition on its publication. Mr. Griswold calls Zophiel the finest fallen angel that has come to us from the hand of a poet. "Milton's outcasts from heaven," he says, "are utterly depraved and abraded of their glory, but Zophiel has traces of his original virtue and beauty, and a lingering hope of restoration to the presence of the Divinity."

Mrs. Gustafson claims that neither in the "Loves of the Angels" nor in "Lalla Rookh" does Thomas Moore's flowing measure equal the musical cadences of "Zophiel," and that there is greater beauty of scene and bloom lavished on the single acacian bower where Zophiel wistfully watches over Egla's sleep than on the whole journey of the beautiful Lalla.

She also adds: "In the Choric Song of Tennyson's 'Lotos-Eaters' the mosaic detail of sensuous description, though as delicate, is not as thoughtful nor so warm in feeling;" and again, "Milton's presentment of Satan, though a grand is a somewhat coarse appeal to our physical perceptions — Zophiel a sombre presence of mystic power and beauty, infused with evil and impressive by the distinctively spiritual significance of the vision."

Southey's enthusiastic appreciation is well known. Charles Lamb rose from the reading of "Zophiel" with the exclamation: "Southey says it is by some Yankee woman; as if there had ever been a woman capable of anything so great!" And still "Zophiel" remains unread and even unknown by name to the general reader.

And yet, although the machinery is cumbersome, the lines often weak and the meaning obscure, the situations, even when dramatically conceived, lacking that

touch of realism which stirs the heart, a sympathetic reader cannot fail to find pleasure and at times a true poetic delight in the perusal of the poem.

In the poems "Judith and Esther" Mrs. Brooks has merely attempted the description of two young women differing in mind and person, yet equal in excellence: "Judith, embodying the idea of prudence, fortitude, decision; Esther, a soul painfully alive to every tender emotion, a mind of great nobility, but of natural softness and humility."

These poems seem not of a nature to require special mention, and the same is true of her shorter poems — fugitive pieces suggested by circumstances in her life or associations: "To venerated friends," "To places visited," "To ——, enclosing a lock of hair," "To one who had taken laudanum to enliven himself." This last she wisely advises to drink, instead, "the young blooming morning's fragrant breath."

Mrs. Brooks' one novel, "Idomen," is interesting not only as a book of fiction, but as being undoubtedly in essential particulars a thinly-veiled account of the author's own life. It belongs, of course, to the sentimental school of romance, and will scarcely appeal to the novel readers of the present generation, familiar with the somewhat tiresomely real men and women of Thomas Hardy or William Dean Howells.

The hero of "Idomen" we can worship afar off, as a creature of another sphere. We have never met his like in our work-a-day world. Our reverence for him is tempered by the delightful hope that the common flesh-and-blood men we know may some day evolve into Ethelwalds, retaining only just enough gross human nature to keep them upon earth.

"Ethelwald's complexion was so fair as to seem almost preternatural; but the expansion of his forehead, a certain stateliness of carriage, the turn of his neck, and the noble outline of his whole person, preserved him, despite his uncommon softness, from the slightest

appearance of effeminacy. A smile of voluptuous sweetness played, as he spoke, about his exquisite mouth, and disclosed rows of teeth as white and free from stain or blemish as bleached pearls newly taken from the oyster. Still, a purity and even anxiety of expression relieved at intervals the mild brilliancy of his eyes, and a strength of arm almost gigantic was forgotten in the delicacy of his manners, and a certain indescribable grace which seemed beaming and floating, as it were, over his whole person. He sang, and his soul seemed to warm every note and word; he looked up, and his curling hair, of a pale golden brown, shone so brightly between the flames of two waxen tapers that it was not difficult to imagine a halo round his forehead like that sometimes given by painters to the god of verse and the lyre."

What wonder that the poor little wife, married at the age of fourteen to a man thrice her years, heavy, dull, uncongenial, should fall in love with this seraphic being!

She says to him: "Well may I desire you to remain; you seem to me like an incarnation of the sun, like a living Apollo. In your presence I forget there is anything like a pain in existence; when I look on you and hear you speak, I feel transported to the region of beauty and music."

Idomen, however, remembers her duty as a wife, and Ethelwald leaves her.

Her husband, Burleigh, loses his property; things go from bad to worse; among worse she mentions "the disgusting lamp, with its oil of sea-animals, which took the place of my neat waxen tapers."

Burleigh finally dies of fever, faithfully nursed to the last by Idomen. After his death she goes to Cuba, at the invitation of her uncle. Her first sight of Havana fills her with interest. "It was noon when we entered the fine harbor of Havana, and the first day of the week; the scene that rose before us seemed too wildly

picturesque for reality. Beings of all tints and complexions, between the light Spanish olive and the jetty black of Africa, seemed crowded to gaze on our arrival; arrayed in clean white garments, they looked as if prepared for a festival. The day was warm, but not oppressive. The castles, Moro and Punto, rose gilded with the sun on each side, and about the dark ledges of the wave-worn cliffs that support them, stood men and boys angling, as if for past time, in the waters of the bay beneath them. Their unsoiled linen dresses were relieved by the color of the rocks, and the whole seemed like a sketch from the vivid fancy of some painter."

Mrs. Brooks seemed not to have had the spirit of the reformer. Living in the early days of Abolition, she looked upon the movement as harmful to black and white alike, calculated to "deface with barbarism the fairest countries." "As regards the jetty African of Cuba," she says, "provide plentifully for his meals, give him the female he prefers, let him have means to procure a few trinkets and ornaments, and above all, exact no task beyond his strength or capacity. Thus provided for, the brilliant rows of ivory between his pouting lips are disclosed by as much happiness as he is capable of tasting." "The limbs of the negroes that passed to and fro among the trees were round and glossy with health, their labors were light and cheerful, and their far native land forgotten; singing in low hum rude songs of their own composing, they lived all day among the flowers of an eternal spring, plucking the red berries of the coffee-fields, or trimming broad hedges of lime-trees." Ripe fruits were their nightly repast; their sports music and dancing. The few wants they knew in a state so near to that nature were promptly and easily supplied, and they lived careless of to-morrow, as the birds that feasted on their orange-trees.

Idomen's uncle grows cold because she refuses offers

from two neighboring planters, and for this reason she leaves Cuba and journeys to Canada.

Here she again meets Ethelwald. "My soul as he spoke drank a nectar of music and of beauty too potent for one so weak. His age was now within two years of thirty; but the fabled Venus, as she stepped from her shell, could not have been imagined more exempt from blemish and discolor. Ethelwald, for a moment, observed my attention. 'When you last saw me,' he said, 'you likened me to Apollo; but now you see me a mortal, almost an old man.' My quick answer was: 'What then am I?' 'When your hair is gray,' he returned, 'mine will be white, and in that thought there is comfort.' Such a speech from such a creature, how could I do otherwise than feel it as I did," says Idomen. Unfortunately there is nothing in the context to tell us just how she did feel it, and it seems difficult to imagine why she should seem so hysterical about it. Between ordinary mortals it would appear a very trivial speech. From an Ethelwald it must have conveyed to the sensitive soul of Idomen some mysterious overpowering thrill. She is invited to dine at a neighboring manor-house. "At table Ethelwald was beside me; I could not eat; pleasure had risen too high."

Ethelwald, however, could eat. Idomen seems more surprised than the reader at this fairly well-recognized peculiarity of mortal man. She watched him "as his white hand passed to his lips, the white morsel of bird on the fork of silver," and thought: "Does he indeed nourish himself with food, and has he blood like mortals?"

Idomen is now, of course, free to marry Ethelwald. They meet often, and correspond with each other, but there seem to be strange misunderstandings and quite unnecessary reserves. Idomen, woman-like, constantly blames herself, but it is the impression of the reader that Ethelwald did not urge his suit with the warmth of the ordinary lover. Probably because he lived so near that

sphere where there is neither marrying nor giving in marriage.

He tells her at one time: "'My fortune is small; if I go to India promotion may follow.' I would have gone with him to the ends of the earth; this I felt, but told him not; some adverse power restrained my tongue." Might not some of the "adverse power" come from the simple fact that Ethelwald forgot to ask her? He says he will bring her his picture. "'Have you got it?' I ask with emotion; but something invisible restrained me, and I claimed not his promise in words. Was not this the crisis of my destiny, and did not my evil fate prevail?" Ethelwald writes to Idomen, but "came no more like a god of Grecian mythology to diffuse light and summer through my lone and wintry habitation." Finally she sends back to him music, papers, gloves, and every little proof of kindness that the beautiful Ethelwald had brought. Ere a day had passed came an answer from Ethelwald: "With a feeling, haply, like that of the savage warrior of the woods, whose death-song is composed, I broke the seal of this paper, traced by the hand of one far dearer and more charming to me than life to the hunter of the forest. After telling me his absence had been entirely the result of unavoidable circumstances, 'How could you for a moment,' he continues, 'believe a report which would prove me, if true, a false friend, base in feeling and in character? Ought you not first to have considered? Everything once mine you have returned! Have I deserved this at your hands? You say, let us not meet again. I will not visit you if you desire it not, but if we meet by accident, I cannot be so inconsistent as not to continue to evince for you the regard I have felt and expressed." To the unprejudiced reader this seems the letter of an indifferent friend, a lukewarm lover — not quite free, even, from that conceited self-love which poses as a martyr, instead of welcoming the burden of the responsibility.

Not so thinks Idomen; she says: "Thus wrote Ethelwald, a seraph in mind as in form, under circumstances where any other man would have shown both pique and resentment.

"All excuse and self-complaisance forsook me. I felt as if unworthy of heaven or earth." And the exasperated reader is inclined to agree with her. From this time on, Idomen gives herself up to despair. She fully resolves on death, and is constantly devising means to be free from the world and its evils. She tries laudanum and arsenic, but finds in them only sickness, and not the death she seeks.

Her uncle in Cuba dies, leaving her some property, and she resolves to return to that dearly-loved land. In her journey through Canada she again meets Ethelwald. "A word or promise must have united our destinies, but neither word nor promise was spoken. Something both wished to impart seemed struggling to burst from our lips; but neither had the power of utterance. Our tongues were like tongues of the entranced."

And so they part never to meet again. Ethelwald writes and asks her address, promising a full explanation. She answers: "I go, perhaps never to return. I ask no explanation. May every happiness attend you!"

She finds a secluded home in Cuba. A neighboring planter who had wished to marry her, urged by jealousy or some worse passion, told her that her present way of living was not only ruinous to herself, but disgraceful to her child, and to all her relatives in Canada.

This so affected the sensitive mind of Idomen that she was stricken with fever; and in a moment of frenzy evaded her attendants and threw herself into the River Yumuri, flowing through her lands.

As a story, "Idomen" will find readers, to-day, only among the curious or among those who, like ourselves, are interested in whatever belongs to the Medford of long ago. It cannot, however, be considered merely as a story. Mr. Griswold, a dear and trusted friend,

declares that "Idomen" contains little that is fictitious except the names of the characters.

As an autobiography it has a pathetic interest, and taken in connection with the meagre account we have of her life, brings the personality of its author more clearly before us. Though written in the stilted phraseology of a bygone time, full of morbid sentimentality and forced situations, it is undoubtedly the heart-history of a Medford woman, ambitious, sensitive, denied the expression of that passionate love and self-sacrificing devotion which filled her soul. As such it is worthy of our deepest sympathy and most reverent interest.[1]

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[1] AUTHORITIES AND BIBLIOGRAPHY. — The following authorities were consulted for the facts contained in this paper: "Harper's Magazine;" "Southern Literary Messenger;" Griswold's "Female Poets of America;" Duyckinck's "Cyclopedia of American Literature;" Medford town records; Boston Town Records; Medford church records; King's Chapel records; records of the Suffolk County Court; the Middlesex Probate and Registry of Deeds, East Cambridge; the Suffolk Probate and Registry of Deeds, Boston; Essex County Probate and Registry of Deeds, Salem; Charlestown records; Wyman's "Estates and Genealogies of Charlestown;" Boston Town Directories from 1796 to 1823; the "Cutter Genealogy;" "List of Graduates of West Point;" and McCullum's "Biographical Register of the Officers and Graduates of the United States Military Academy."

Judith, Esther, and other Poems. / By a Lover of the Fine Arts, / Boston: Cummings & Hilliard. / 1820.

Zophiel. / A Poem. By Mrs. Brooks. / Boston. / Published by Richardson & Lord. / 1825.

Zophiel; / or, / The Bride of Seven. / By / Maria del Occidente. / Boston, / Carter & Hendee, / 1833.

This edition was published simultaneously in London, by C. and W. Reynolds, Printers, Broad street, Golden square. 1833.

The second edition of the complete poem, "Zophiel," was published for the benefit of the Polish exiles, in Boston, 1834, by Hilliard, Gray & Co.

Idomen; / or, / The Vale of Yumuri, / by Maria del Occidente. / New York. / Published by Samuel Colmer. / 1843.

"Idomen." Clearly a thinly-veiled account of Mrs. Brooks' own life; but it is impossible to separate satisfactorily the purely fictitious from the autobiographical parts; but enough remains to confirm statements gathered from other sources. Perhaps the peculiarly sentimental phases of her character are brought out in greater prominence, if possible, than in her previous works.

DEACON SAMUEL TRAIN.

[This brief memoir is the substance of a most enjoyable informal talk by Mr. Hall at a Saturday evening gathering in the rooms of the Medford Historical Society.]

IT is remarkable that neither Brooks's nor Usher's history makes any mention of Deacon Samuel Train, who was for many years a well-known and highly respected citizen of Medford. He was born at Weston, Mass., on the twenty-first of July, 1781.[1] His first wife was Mary Nickerson, of Provincetown, who was born June 26, 1784, and died in Boston, July 24, 1810, leaving three children, Elijah Nickerson, and twin brothers, who died in infancy. Mr. Train's second wife, Hannah Putnam Flint, of North Reading, died in Medford on the thirty-first of December, 1850, leaving seven children. Mr. Train moved from Boston to Medford in 1827 and died in this town April 7, 1874, at the age of ninety-two. His business was in Boston, where he began life as a merchant at No. 1 Codman's wharf in 1806. He was an importer of hides and leather and afterwards established a large shipping business and foreign trade with South American and Cuban ports. His partner was the late Enoch Train, and after some years of great activity in business and the building of ships for their trade, Samuel Train retired from the firm, his son, Elijah N. Train, taking his place. Mr. Train went to Boston nearly every week day, and even up to his last and fatal illness he personally managed all his affairs, and maintained his interest in all the mercan-

[1] I am indebted to Mr. Train's daughter Rebecca (Mrs. George H. Lemist, of Sheffield) for much valuable information. I quote from her letter, dated May 23, 1899: "He was a man of few words, but he was always interested in all the young men, who enjoyed his quaint and bright chat on different subjects. I wish I could do his character justice, but we never value our parents until they are gone or until we ourselves are nearing the close of life. The memories of those days are sweet and precious. I am hardly the one to write of my father. To me he was a most remarkable man, retaining to the very last, at ninety-two years of age, his fine intellect, his strength of purpose, his judgment unimpaired."— H. D. H.

tile, political, and charitable work of the day. He was careful in giving his advice or opinion, but his judgments when given were sound and true. His spirit was calm and dignified, and under a quiet and sometimes stern exterior he bore a warm and kind heart. A devoted lover of Boston, he lived to see the city grow to great proportions, and it was his pride and delight to tell of his early life when it was so small a town. He was charitable and kind in his religious belief, and in his own simple, quiet way was helpful in every good cause and work. He inherited from his mother, Rebecca Hammond, of Dedham, sister of the late Samuel Hammond, of Boston, his strong character and Puritan love of all that was good and noble and improving, together with an earnest desire for knowledge.

The Boston *Traveller*, under the heading "An Old Boston Merchant," said a few days after Mr. Train's death: "He was born in Weston. Shortly after his birth his father removed to Hillsboro, N.H., then almost a wilderness. Here he remained until his majority, and then started for Boston on foot to seek his fortune, coming down on the old Derry and Andover pike. He halted at Medford to eat his frugal meal on the spot where he afterwards built his home and where he died. He began business in Boston as a dealer in boots and shoes, near where the Quincy Market now stands. By degrees he added thereto a trade in hides and leather, and was among the first, if not the first, to embark in the importing of hides from South America, and for many years was the leading importer, having established the house of Flint, Peabody & Co., at Buenos Ayres. About forty years ago he associated with him as partner the late Enoch Train. At one time he was one of the largest ship-owners. At the time of his death he was, next to Timothy Dodd, our oldest living merchant in this city. His immediate contemporaries and business associates were Robert G. Shaw, Benjamin Bangs, Samuel C. Gray, Thomas Wigglesworth, George Barnard, and the Pick-

mans, Silsbees, and Rogers, of Salem. He was remarkably regular in his business habits, frugal in his living, but liberal to a fault. He retained his full vigor up to the time of his last illness. He leaves three sons and a daughter by his second wife. His only son and child by his first marriage died many years ago in Cuba. His eldest son by his last marriage, Samuel T. Train, died shortly after returning from the war. His eldest daughter, Mrs. George L. Stearns, of Medford, died several years ago. Few men have had so successful a business career. Few men have so long enjoyed immunity from all the ills of life."

No one who knew Mr. Train would question his sincere piety. He proved it in his daily life, as well as in the intercourse of his family and near friends. He was at all times a gentleman, one of the old school, that is so rarely seen in our day, a great lover of nature, especially of fruits and flowers, a keen observer, and extravagantly fond of fishing. Candor compels me to admit that in describing some of his experiences the good Deacon would exaggerate beyond belief. Not that he intended to deceive, but he seemed to hold an idea that if he did not describe an incident in the most extravagant style his listener would not appreciate the situation. As an illustration, he once told me that the day previous his son William had given him a gallon demijohn of choice whiskey. He carried the same safely as far as his back yard. There was a high step at the entrance to his wood-shed, and not stepping high enough to clear it, he fell, smashing the demijohn into a thousand pieces. The whiskey, he declared, for ten feet all around was six inches deep, and on entering the house his clothing was so saturated with the liquor that his niece thought he was intoxicated. To my look of astonishment, he responded, "Well, it was not quite so bad as that." One day I happened to be present when he returned from a fishing-trip at Phillips Beach. He had for a companion the late Rev. Dr. Adams, an

eminent divine of New York City. Replying to my question of "What luck?" he said, "It beat all" (a favorite expression of his). "The cod and haddock were so thick swimming about the boat that you could scoop them up with your hands." The surprised look of Dr. Adams I shall never forget, but it did not induce the Deacon to qualify his description. He told me one day of his experience in haying. He said that in the morning there were indications of thunder-storms, and having considerable hay mown, he was determined to get it in, if possible, before it rained. He said "it beat all" how hard he worked. He succeeded in housing the hay, but was completely drenched with perspiration, and when he took off his clothes he threw his shirt down, and it struck the floor like a green calf-skin. As the Deacon was at one time a dealer in hides and skins, he was familiar with their solid nature. The last time I saw the Deacon alive he was standing by the platform in Boston, in the old station in Haymarket Square, in deep meditation. He told me he was thinking that it was only a few years ago when there was not a railroad in existence, and now no one could go a rod without stumbling over forty of them.

I have stated briefly a few facts and some original sayings of this highly respected citizen, leaving to more competent hands a fitting account of his life and character, and would simply submit this incomplete narrative as a nucleus for some able writers of this Society to enlarge upon, and to do justice to one of Medford's old and prominent residents, promising to assist in finding or to give any information which I have or can obtain to aid them in the undertaking.

HORACE D. HALL.

THE GOVERNOR BROOKS MONUMENT.

FOLLOWING is the inscription on the monument in memory of Governor John Brooks in Salem Street Cemetery, Medford :

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF
JOHN BROOKS
WHO WAS BORN IN MEDFORD IN THE
MONTH OF MAY 1752 AND EDUCATED
AT THE TOWN SCHOOL
HE TOOK UP ARMS FOR HIS COUNTRY
ON THE 19TH OF APRIL 1775;
HE COMMANDED THE REGIMENT WHICH FIRST
ENTERED THE ENEMY'S LINES AT SARATOGA
AND SERVED WITH HONOR TO THE CLOSE OF THE WAR.
HE WAS APPOINTED MARSHAL OF THE
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS BY
PRESIDENT WASHINGTON
AND AFTER FILLING SEVERAL IMPORTANT
CIVIL AND MILITARY OFFICES,
HE WAS IN THE YEAR 1816 CHOSEN
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH
AND DISCHARGED THE DUTIES OF THAT STATION
FOR SEVERAL SUCCESSIVE YEARS
TO GENERAL ACCEPTANCE
HE WAS A KIND AND SKILFUL PHYSICIAN,
A BRAVE AND PRUDENT OFFICER,
A WISE, FIRM AND IMPARTIAL MAGISTRATE,
A TRUE PATRIOT, A GOOD CITIZEN AND
A FAITHFUL FRIEND
IN HIS MANNER HE WAS A GENTLEMAN,
IN MORALS PURE, AND IN PROFESSION AND
PRACTICE A CONSISTENT CHRISTIAN
HE DEPARTED THIS LIFE IN PEACE ON THE 1ST
OF MARCH 1825 aged 73
THIS MONUMENT TO HIS HONORED MEMORY
WAS ERECTED BY SEVERAL OF HIS FELLOW-CITIZENS
AND FRIENDS IN THE YEAR 1838

A VALUABLE GIFT.

A PLEASANT and well-attended social meeting opened the season for the Medford Historical Society at its rooms October 16. President Wait reported that the enrolment of members in the several committees, according to the plan proposed last summer, had not proceeded far, and emphasized the fact that this enrolment is wholly voluntary, and should not be regarded as imposing a burden upon any member.

The notable event of the evening was the presentation to the Society of several valuable articles once the property of Mrs. Lydia Maria Child, and intimately associated with different periods of her life from girlhood to full maturity. The presentation was made by Mrs. Anna D. Hallowell, through whose efforts they have been secured for the Society. The articles are the gift of Mr. W. H. Parsons, of Brooklyn, whose wife was a niece of Mrs. Child. They were given in the name of Mrs. Sarah M. Parsons (born Preston).

The gift included (1) a baby's gown, wrought by Lydia Maria Francis, at the age of nineteen, for her niece, Sarah Preston ; (2) life-size oil portrait of Lydia Maria Francis, at the age of twenty, by Alexander ; (3) gold watch given to Mrs. Lydia Maria Child in 1835, by "some ladies of Lynn and Salem," just after the publication of her "Appeal in Behalf of those American Citizens called Africans ;" and (4) a colored photograph of David Lee Child.

It seems peculiarly fitting that these memorials of Mrs. Child should be committed to the care of the Medford Historical Society, and should rest in the house so intimately associated with her early years. A cordial vote of thanks very inadequately expressed the appreciation of the members of the Society for the spirit of the gift.

THE COMMITTEES.

AT a special meeting held one Saturday evening just before the summer vacation a plan of work was brought forward by President Wait and met a very favorable reception. It was, in brief, to invite each member of the Society to join one or more of the standing committees and assist in the work of such committees. As a farther step towards vitalizing the committees it was proposed that each one of them should have certain Saturday evenings assigned to it for report and discussion of its work or of some phase thereof. The informal Saturday evening gatherings around the hearthstone have long been one of the pleasantest features of the Society for the few who have participated in them. The president's plan will, it is hoped, encourage a larger attendance, and increase the interest in these Saturday evening gatherings, thus developing the social side of the Society's life and correspondingly enlivening the interest in its more serious work.

In accordance with this plan each member has received a letter from the president inviting an alliance with some committee or committees. The response has not been as prompt and encouraging as was hoped, but a better understanding of the purpose of the new departure may bring in the returns. Some of the members have felt that this call summoned them to work for which they had not time, and perhaps not inclination. It should be well understood that this is an opportunity that is offered, not a requirement that is imposed, — an opportunity for those historically inclined to do as much as they wish along the lines most interesting to them, and by so doing to add so much to the activity of the society of which they form a part. It is not intended to burden any one with onerous responsibilities, and it may be hoped that as the members come

to realize this there will be an increasing enrolment of willing and enthusiastic workers in the various committees, and that the committees' Saturday evenings will become increasingly profitable.

E. A. S.

THE EARLY NAMES OF MEDFORD'S STREETS.

DOWN to 1829 the people of Medford apparently cared little for uniformity in the names of their highways. It is probable that so long as ways were few, public convenience made no demand for names. With the increase in numbers, however, a fixed method of designating the various ways became important; and at the town meeting in April, 1829, the selectmen for that year were directed to assign names to the streets. Their report, indorsed "Names of the Streets, May, 1829," is still on the files in the office of the City Clerk. It read as follows:

The Selectmen being appointed a Committee at April meeting for the purpose of naming the Streets, report the following. that the road leading from the Town pump (West) to Charlestown Line be called *High St.*, from Town pump (east) to Malden Line Salem St. from Town pump (South) to foot of Winter Hill *Main St.*, from porter's corner S.E. to Wellington Farm Ship St. — from Hotel (west) to where the road leaves the River South St. & from thence over the cannel to Charlestown Line Spring St. from Main St. to Charlestown Line on the Road leading to Lechmere point *Court St* — from Main St. near Nathan Adams' House to Charlestown Line leading to Harvard College, *Cambridge St* from Benj^{m} Tufts Corner to Stoneham Line *Mountain Street* — from Ship St to Salem St leading by the new Burring Ground *Cross Street* from Turell's Corner to Woburn Line *purchase St* from High St by Jon^{a} Brooks the old road to purchase St *Woburn St* — from High St near Cannel Bridge by P. C Brooks to Symme's Corner Grove St.

JOHN HOWE *Chairman.*"

Whether, as a matter of fact, the town adopted all these names I do not know. Certainly some of them did not

last many years; for only old residents of Medford or students of her history will recognize all the ways now known as High, Salem, Main, Riverside avenue, South, South Winthrop, Medford, Harvard, Fulton, Cross, North Winthrop, Woburn, and Grove streets. Several of the names are improvements on the present nomenclature, for there was a meaning in them, lost in the present names. Court street, for instance, designated the shortest way to Court at East Cambridge.

It would be interesting to know why the names of many have been changed. I hope some one may be led to find this out and put his discoveries in print.

The report brings to mind very forcibly that in May, 1829, Somerville, Arlington, and Winchester were not.

W. C. W.

PROGRAMME FOR THE YEAR.

October 16. — Social Meeting.

November 20. — "The Second Church and Mystic Church." Mr. Charles Cummings.

December 18. — "The Homes of the Puritans." Rev. T. F. Waters, President of the Ipswich Historical Society.

January 15. — "Benjamin Hall." Miss Helen T. Wild.

February 19. — "The Royall House and Farm." Mr. John H. Hooper.

March 19. — Annual Meeting.

April 16. — "Slavery in Medford." Mr. Walter H. Cushing.

May 21. — Not yet arranged.

NEW MEMBERS.

(Number previously reported, 254.)

Samuel N. Mayo. | Mrs. H. E. Wellington.

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